

PUBLIC

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **STANDARDS COMMITTEE** held on 19 July 2017 at County Hall, Matlock

**PRESENT**

Councillor C Short (in the Chair)

Councillors K Buttery, A Fox, L Grooby, W Major and C R Moesby

Also in attendance – Messrs K Jackson-Horner, L Newby MBE and P Smith (Independent Persons)

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors J A Coyle and D McGregor

**4/17** **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 22 March 2017 be received.

**5/17** **COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES – DURATION OF COUNCIL MEETINGS** The Director of Legal Services presented a report which gave consideration to a proposed amendment to the Rules of Procedure within the Council's Constitution to allow for the adjournment of any Council meeting which had lasted for three hours or longer.

It was considered that excessively lengthy meetings did not serve the interests of good decision making. However, under the current arrangements, the Rules of Procedure did not provide for the duration of Council meetings to be restricted or provide for their adjournment.

Whilst the general management of Council meetings would remain at the discretion of the Chairman, it was considered that it would be helpful to have parameters established in the Council's Constitution. Therefore, it was proposed that the Council's Rules of Procedure be amended to enable Council meetings to be adjourned if they exceeded three hours. A draft report to be considered by the Council on 13 September 2017 detailing the proposed changes to the Constitution was attached as an Appendix to the report for consideration by the Standards Committee.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the proposed new clause should read as follows:

***DURATION Unless the majority of Members present vote for the meeting to continue, any meeting that has lasted for three hours will adjourn without***

*delay. Any remaining business will be considered at the next ordinary meeting of the Council or an alternative date and time will be arranged.*

**RESOLVED** to commend the proposed changes to the Council's Rules of Procedure.

**6/17      RECOGNITION OF FORMER COUNCILLORS – HONORARY ALDERMEN AND ALDERWOMEN** The Director of Legal Services presented a report which gave consideration to a proposal to enable the Council to formally recognise valuable service provided to the Council by former Councillors.

The recent and previous changes in administration had seen a number of County Councillors who had provided valuable service to the Council step down from public office. With this in mind, consideration was being given to recognising such service by way of appointing Honorary Aldermen and Honorary Alderwomen.

Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 enabled a principal Council to confer the title of Honorary Aldermen and Honorary Alderwomen on persons who had in the opinion of the Council rendered eminent service as past members. To confer the honorary title, the Council must pass a resolution by not less than two-thirds of the Members present at a meeting specially convened for the purpose. It was proposed that the Council's Constitution be amended to enable the Council to appoint Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen. A draft report to be considered by the Council on 13 September 2017 detailing the proposal and outlining the associated amendments to the Constitution was attached as an Appendix to the report

**RESOLVED** to commend the proposed changes to the Council's Rules of Procedure.

**7/17      CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING** Members provided feedback on the Code of Conduct training that had been held on 11 July 2017. The comments were very positive and Members found the content of the training extremely useful. It was suggested that similar training could be arranged every two years and it was recommended that the Independent Persons be invited as they could find the various scenarios helpful in their role.