

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Ethics Committee held at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 5 April
2022

Present:

Members: Councillor S Walsh (Chair)

Councillor P Hetherton

Councillor D Welsh

Independent Persons: S Atkinson, A Barton, R Wills, P Wiseman

Employees (by Service Area)

Law and Governance: J Newman (Director) and S Bennett

Apologies: Councillors J Mutton and M Mutton

Public Business

21. Declarations of Interest

Councillor D Welsh indicated that he had an “other” interest in the matter the subject of Minute 23 below in that he had been consulted, in his capacity as Cabinet Member for Housing and Community, on an aspect the subject of the investigation. He indicated that he would not be participating in the consideration of this item.

22. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 December, 2021 were agreed and signed as a true record.

There were no matters arising.

23. Hearing into Alleged Breach of the Code of Conduct

In light of the declaration of interest by Councillor D Welsh in this matter (Minute 21 above refers), the Committee was not quorate for consideration of this item and therefore this item was deferred to a future meeting.

24. **Six Monthly Review of Members' Declarations of Gifts and Hospitality**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Law and Governance appended to which were details of Members' declarations of gifts and hospitality for the period 1 July to 31 December, 2021.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

25. **Six Monthly Review of Officers' Gifts and Hospitality**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Law and Governance appended to which were details of Officers' declarations of gifts and hospitality for the period 1 July to 31 December, 2021.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

26. **Code of Conduct Update**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Law and Governance which provided an update on national issues in relation to the ethical behaviour of elected Members and the local position in Coventry with regards to the Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED that the Ethics Committee:-

- 1) **Notes the position with regard to matters concerning local authorities nationally; and**
- 2) **Notes the local position relating to the operation of the Council's Code of Conduct and delegates any actions arising from these to the Monitoring Officer, following consultation with the Chair of the Ethics Committee**

27. **Ethics Committee - Work Programme 2022-23**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Law and Governance which detailed a proposed Work Programme for 2022/23. It was noted that a meeting of the Committee would need to be held to consider the matter the subject of Minute 23 above.

RESOLVED that the Work Programme attached to the report be approved with the inclusion of the following items:-

- 1) **The Government's response to the recommendations from the Committee on Stands in Public Life regarding ethics in local government.**
- 2) **Members' and Officers' declarations of gifts and hospitality following the City of Culture 2021 year and the Commonwealth Games 2022.**

28. **Any Other Items of Urgent Public Business**

There were no other items of urgent public business.

(Meeting closed at 2.30pm)