

**A MEETING OF THE STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
WAS HELD ON 14 OCTOBER 2021**

Councillors Blackman, Ms Ballard, Chegwyn, Mrs Furlong, Hylands, Mrs Hook and Scard

54. APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

There were no apologies, but reduced numbers in attendance

55. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none

56. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 3RD AUGUST 2021

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 August 2021 be signed as a true and correct record.

57. DEPUTATIONS - STANDING ORDER 3.4

There were none

58. PUBLIC QUESTIONS - STANDING ORDER 3.5

There were none

59. LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN ANNUAL REVIEW 2021

Consideration was given to a report by the Chief Executive regarding the Annual Review Letter 2021 received from the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO).

In answer to a Member's question the Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer agreed to provide more details of the complaints received by the LGO in future reports and to improve the presentation of the data and annual comparisons.

In answer to a Member's question the Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer agreed to work with the Chairman in determining what format annual reporting of complaints against Councillors could take and how it could be made public to assist with transparency, but protect confidentiality.

Members were advised that the Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer would look to ensure that the published information regarding Member's allowances and travel expenses was accurate and clearly shown to meet the legal requirements.

RESOLVED: That the Committee noted the report.

60. CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

Consideration was given to a report by the Chief Internal Auditor regarding the Corporate Risk Register.

RESOLVED: That the Committee noted the report.

61. AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT 1ST APRIL TO 20TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Consideration was given to a report by the Chief Internal Auditor regarding the Audit Progress Report 1st April to 20th September 2021.

Members were advised that progress was a little behind where it was hoped to be due to the loss of a member of the audit team. This position had now been recruited, and amendments have been made to the plan in light of the effect of carrying the vacancy.

Members were advised that good progress had been made in the area of GDPR and had moved from limited assurance to reasonable assurance.

In answer to a Member's question, the Chief Internal Auditor advised that there may be further calls on his team to support other departments, and it was the break in work flow that caused the problem, not just the number of hours. He advised that he would be bringing more information to the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Committee noted the report.

62. ANY OTHER ITEMS

There were none.

CHAIRMAN

Concluded at 6.14 pm