

Review of various Corporate Governance and Standards related matters:

Decisions taken by the Corporate Governance and Standards Committee on 30 July 2020

- (1) That the Council's code of conduct be readily accessible to both councillors and the public in a more prominent position on the Council's website and available for inspection at the Council offices (CSPL Best Practice Recommendation 4 refers).
- (2) That, notwithstanding the duty of all councillors to ensure that their register of interests (including gifts and hospitality) is kept up to date, the Democratic Services and Elections Manager be requested to prompt councillors to review their register of interests on a quarterly basis (CSPL Best Practice Recommendation 5 refers).
- (3) That the Committee notes that, by having a shared pool of seven Independent Persons jointly appointed by Guildford and six other Surrey councils for the four-year period 2019-23, the Council complies fully with CSPL Best Practice Recommendation 7: Local authorities should have access to at least two Independent Persons.
- (4) That the Monitoring Officer be requested to provide an indicative estimate of timescales for investigations and outcomes within the guidance on the Council's website in respect of making a complaint under the Councillors' Code of Conduct (CSPL Best Practice Recommendation 10 refers).
- (5) That the Committee agrees that CSPL Best Practice Recommendation 11: "Formal standards complaints about the conduct of a parish councillor towards a clerk should be made by the chair or by the parish council as a whole, rather than the clerk in all but exceptional circumstances" is a matter for individual parish councils, but that there should be no impediment for a clerk to make a formal complaint about the conduct of a parish councillor.
- (6) That, should there be the need for assistance to a Parish Council in dealing with a conduct issue on the part of the Clerk, the Monitoring Officer could assist in this regard by offering advice, support, and guidance.
- (7) That the Councillor Development Steering Group be requested to look at extending training opportunities to parish councils wherever possible and encouraging parish councillors' attendance at any such opportunities in the future (CSPL Best Practice Recommendation 12 refers).
- (8) That the Committee notes that by having procedures already in place in the Council's Arrangements to address any conflicts of interest that might arise when undertaking a standards investigation, the Council complies fully with CSPL Best Practice Recommendation 13.
- (9) That the Committee notes that by having frequent meetings with political group leaders where the Managing Director is able to discuss various matters including, where necessary, ethical standards issues, the Council complies fully with CSPL Best Practice Recommendation 15.