

# DRAFT

Note: These Minutes will remain DRAFT until approved at the next meeting of the Committee

## GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2022

**Councillors Present:** Jeff Cant (Chairman), Jeremy Cottam (Vice-Chairman), Jeff Beck, David Marsh, Geoff Mayes, Andy Moore, Bill Graham, Claire Rowles (Substitute) (In place of Rick Jones) and Anne Budd (Substitute) (In place of David Southgate)

**Also Present:** Sarah Clarke (Service Director (Strategy and Governance)) and Sharon Armour (Solicitor), Stephen Chard (Democratic Services Manager), Councillor Thomas Marino (Executive Portfolio: Internal Governance and Strategic Partnerships), Councillor Jeff Brooks (Shadow Portfolio Holder: Deputy Leader, Finance and HR) and Councillor Richard Somner (Executive Portfolio: Planning, Transport & Countryside)

**Apologies for inability to attend the meeting:** Councillor Rick Jones, Councillor Tony Linden, Councillor Biyi Oloko and David Southgate

#### PART I

#### 24 Declarations of Interest

All West Berkshire District Councillors declared an interest in Agenda Item 4, but reported that, as their interest was a personal or an other registrable interest, but not a disclosable pecuniary interest, they determined to remain to take part in the debate and vote on the matter.

#### 25 Exclusion of Press and Public

**RESOLVED** that members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the under-mentioned item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as contained in Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the [Local Government \(Access to Information\)\(Variation\) Order 2006](#). [Rule 8.10.4 of the Constitution also refers](#).

#### 26 NDC2121 and NDC2221

*(Paragraph 1 – information relating to an individual)*

*(All West Berkshire District Councillors declared a personal interest in Agenda item 4 by virtue of the fact that the Subject Member was a fellow Councillor. As their interest was personal and not prejudicial they were permitted to take part in the debate and vote on the matter).*

*(Councillor Jeff Beck added to his declaration by advising that he had responded to an e-mail of apology sent by the Subject Member).*

*(Councillor Andy Moore declared a personal interest in Agenda item 4 by virtue of the fact that he was the Chair of the Newbury and West Berkshire Liberal Democrats at the time of the complaint. The matter was referred to the group's Local Party Executive (Councillor Moore did not sit on this) who considered that West Berkshire Council was best placed to resolve the issue. As his interest was personal and not prejudicial he was permitted to take part in the debate and vote on the matter).*

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*(Councillor Claire Rowles declared a personal interest in Agenda item 4 by virtue of the fact that she knew the Independent Investigator on a non-professional basis. As her interest was personal and not prejudicial she was permitted to take part in the debate and vote on the matter).*

The Committee considered an exempt report (Agenda Item 4) concerning a complaint regarding an alleged breach of the Code of Conduct.

**The Committee's resolutions were recorded in the exempt Decision Notice.**

*(The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and closed at 3.50 pm)*

**CHAIRMAN** .....

**Date of Signature** .....