

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Council on Thursday 25 January 2024

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
Part A – Items considered in public		
A3	Monitoring Officer Designation - Interim appointment and Interim arrangements to cover Executive Director of Customer and Governance Duties	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That Council appointed Sanjit Sull as Interim Monitoring Officer with effect from 27th January 2024, pending the permanent appointment to the role.</p> <p>Reasons for Recommendations: It is a requirement in law that the Council has a designated Monitoring Officer and the recommendations within this report ensure that the Council continues to comply with its statutory and legal obligations.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered: Under the Local Government & Housing Act 1988, Section 5, authorities are required to appoint one of its officers as its Monitoring Officer, to ensure legal and fair decision making; promote and maintain high standards of conduct; report any instances of maladministration; and review the Council's Constitution.</p> <p>The Council could decide to appoint a suitably qualified interim/consultant to fulfil the Monitoring Officer role and cover the duties of the Executive Director of Customer and Governance, however, the recommended option will ensure stability, continuity and will be the most cost-effective solution.</p>
A4	Proposed Revisions to the Constitution - Audit and Governance Committee Terms of Reference	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That Council approved of the revised Terms of Reference for the Audit and Governance Committee.</p>

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		<p>Reason for Recommendation – The proposed changes are recommended to ensure the Audit and Governance Committee can effectively discharge its functions in compliance with professional standards and reflects local arrangements.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered - The option of presenting the revisions as part of the programmed review at a later date was rejected as this would disrupt the delivery of the work of the Audit and Governance Committee.</p>
A5	Local Government Association - Civility in public life - Debate Not Hate Campaign	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) committed to and accepted the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To support the ‘Debate not Hate’ campaign and accept the Local Government Association recommendations in principle. b) To work together, across the political groups to promote and uphold high standards of civil behaviour in public and political debate. c) To establish a reporting mechanism to record and monitor incidents of harassment and abuse. d) To work with officers to ensure that support is provided to councillors who are experiencing intimidation and abuse.

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		<p>e) That the Democracy and Standards Committee will review this on an annual basis and will work with the Monitoring Officer to address and challenge ongoing issues and key concerns.</p> <p>ii) That the Leader of the Council signs the Debate Not Hate Public Statement on behalf of the Council.</p> <p>Reasons for Recommendations - The ‘Debate not Hate’ campaign aims to raise public awareness of the role of councillors in local communities, encourage healthy debate and improve the response to and support those in public life facing abuse and intimidation.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered – To do nothing, however providing support to the campaign promotes high ethical standards in public life which is consistent with the Nolan principles and the Councillor Code of Conduct in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.</p>
A6	Request for Dispensation for Attendance	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That Council granted a dispensation for Councillor Christina Smith-Haynes from attending meetings of the Council for a six-month period by reason of illness.</p>

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		<p>Reason for Recommendations – Pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 where a Councillor fails to attend any meeting of the Council for six months, they cease to be a Member of the Council unless a dispensation has been granted by the Council.</p> <p>Other Options Considered – Council could not approve the dispensation. This is not recommended as the reasons for it are considered reasonable and failure to grant would result in Councillor Christina Smith-Haynes ceasing to be a member of North Northamptonshire Council.</p>

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