

EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Committee: Council **Date:** Tuesday, 17 January 2023

Place: Council Chamber - Civic Offices **Time:** 7.00 - 8.48 pm

Members Present: Councillors D Sunger (Vice-Chairman), I Allgood, C Amos, N Avey, R Balcombe, R Bassett, N Bedford, P Bhanot, P Bolton, H Brady, R Brookes, L Burrows, E Gabbett, S Heap, S Heather, H Kane, S Kane, J Lea, J Leppert, A Lion, T Matthews, C McCredie, J Mclvor, R Morgan, S Murray, C Nweke, M Owen, J Parsons, A Patel, S Patel, J Philip, Caroline Pond, C C Pond, K Rizvi, B Rolfe, P Stalker, D Stocker, B Vaz, C Whitbread, H Whitbread, J H Whitehouse, J M Whitehouse, K Williamson, D Wixley and S Yerrell

Apologies: M Sartin, R Baldwin, I Hadley, R Jennings, J Jennings, J Jogia, H Kauffman, P Keska, J Lucas, L Mead and R Pugsley

Officers Present: A Small (Section 151 Officer), G Blakemore (Chief Executive), G Woodhall (Team Manager - Democratic & Electoral Services), J Leither (Democratic Services Officer), N Boateng (Service Manager (Legal) & Monitoring Officer), A McKeon (Corporate Business Partner - People) and T Carne (Corporate Communications Team Manager)

56. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman Councillor D Sunger assumed the role of Chairman and proposed that Councillor H Kane be Vice Chairman for the duration of the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That Council agreed for Councillor H Kane to assume the role of Vice Chairman for the duration of the meeting.

57. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor D Sunger, Chairman advised that he would be a non-voting chairman for this meeting.

- (a) Pursuant to the Council's Members' Code of Conduct, Councillor C Whitbread, Councillor H Whitbread, Councillor N Bedford, Councillor J Philip, Councillor S Kane, Councillor N Avey, Councillor L Burrows and Councillor A Patel declared non-pecuniary interests in item 4, of the agenda and declared that they would not be voting on this item.
- (b) Pursuant to the Council's Members' Code of Conduct, Councillor J Mclvor declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 4.
- (c) Pursuant to the Council's Members' Code of Conduct, Councillor R Bassett declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 4 of the agenda by virtue of being a Executive Director of Qualis.

- (d) Pursuant to the Council's Members' Code of Conduct, Councillor C McCredie declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 4 of the agenda and declared that she would be voting on this item.
- (e) Pursuant to the Council's Members' Code of Conduct, Georgina Blakemore, Chief Executive of Epping Forest District Council declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 4.

58. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press should be excluded from the meeting for the item of business set out below on the grounds that it would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the following paragraph(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act (as amended) or were confidential under Section 100(A)(2):

Agenda Item Number	Subject	Exempt Paragraph Information Number
4	Report of the Investigating Disciplinary Committee	1 and 2

59. REPORT OF THE INVESTIGATING DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

The Council received a report from the Investigating Disciplinary Committee (IDC) regarding allegations and concerns arising from a whistleblowing complaint against an Officer of the Council.

An Independent Investigator assessed the case and submitted reports to the IDC for them to consider. The IDC submitted a report to Council outlining their recommendations. The recommendations of the IDC had been reviewed by two of the Council's Independent Persons prior to the meeting of the Council, and they had supported the recommendations of the IDC.

The Officer of the Council was given an opportunity to present their appeal against the recommendations of the IDC, and subsequently answered a number of questions from the Councillors present.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.00pm to allow the Officer of the Council to leave the meeting and was reconvened at 8.10pm. The Council then proceeded to debate the report of the IDC and their recommendations.

RESOLVED:

That the Council received a report from the Investigating Disciplinary Committee outlining their recommendations and agreed that these were just and upheld.

CHAIRMAN