

## **MINUTES CABINET**

**Thursday 7 October 2021**

Councillor John Clarke (Chair)

|          |                          |                                |
|----------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Present: | Councillor Michael Payne | Councillor Jenny Hollingsworth |
|          | Councillor Peter Barnes  | Councillor Viv McCrossen       |
|          | Councillor David Ellis   | Councillor Henry Wheeler       |
|          | Councillor Gary Gregory  |                                |

Officers in Attendance: M Hill, A Ball, A Dubberley and B Hopewell

**39 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

None.

**40 TO APPROVE, AS A CORRECT RECORD, THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the above meeting, having been circulated, be approved as a correct record.

**41 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.**

None.

**42 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY POLICY AND ACTION PLAN**

The Director of Corporate Resources introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, following the public consultation on the draft Equality and Diversity Policy and Equality Framework and Action Plan, seeking approval for their adoption.

Members asked that staff involved in the creation of the policy were thanked for their hard work in bringing it together. The Chief Executive added that an update on how the policy is working would be brought back to Cabinet in due course.

**RESOLVED to:**

- 1) Note the responses to the public consultation on the Equality and Diversity Policy and Equality Framework and Action Plan; and

- 2) Approve the adoption of the Equality and Diversity Policy and Equality Framework and Action Plan (at Appendix 2 and 3 respectively), as detailed in the report.

#### **43 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CODE**

The Director of Corporate Resources introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, which presented the Financial Management Code that had been recommended for adoption by the Audit Committee.

Members paid tribute to the hard working staff in the finance department and asked that a letter of thanks is sent to them.

##### **RESOLVED to:**

Approve the initial assessment, set out in Appendix 2 to the report, of the Council's assessed level of compliance with the standards in the Code and the resulting actions required.

#### **44 REVIEW OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY THE COUNCIL AND ANNUAL REVIEW LETTER – LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN**

The Chief Executive introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, presenting details of complaints and compliments received in the 2020/21 year and seeking approval of amendments to the various policies as detailed in the report.

Again Members commented that they were appreciative of the hard work done by staff that deal with complaints and asked for their thanks to be passed on. It was also particularly pleasing to note the number of compliments received about the Leisure Service.

##### **RESOLVED to:**

- 1) Note the details of the Annual Review letter from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman and the information in relation to the number of complaints dealt with by the Council through the internal complaints procedure in 2020/21;
- 2) Approve the amendments to the Council's Complaints, Compliments and Comments Policy as shown at Appendix 2 to the report; and
- 3) Approve the amendments to the Council's Unreasonably Persistent Complainants Policy as shown at Appendix 4 to the report.

#### **45 FORWARD PLAN**

Consideration was given to a report of the Democratic Services Manager, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, detailing the Executive's draft Forward Plan for the next four month period.

**RESOLVED:**

To note the report.

**46**

**ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT.**

None.

The meeting finished at 2.35 pm

Signed by Chair:

Date: