



To be submitted to the Council at its meeting on 29th July 2021

STANDARDS AND ADJUDICATION COMMITTEE

13th April 2021
9:30 a.m.

Present:

Councillor K. Swinburn (in the Chair)
Councillors Bramley, Brookes, Cairns, Callison, Rodwell (substitute for Rogers) and Watson

Officers in attendance:

- Rob Close (Scrutiny and Committee Support Officer)
- Simon Jones (Assistant Director Law, Governance and Assets) (Monitoring Officer)
- Paul Windley (Democratic and Scrutiny Team Manager)

SA.7 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rogers.

SA.8 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received in respect of any item on the agenda for this meeting.

SA.9 AMENDMENT TO COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS

The committee considered a report proposing an amendment to the Council's Standing Orders regarding questions on the minutes of Cabinet and Committee meetings. The committee noted that the report was initially considered at the special meeting of the Standards and Adjudication Committee on 18th November 2020, but at the subsequent meeting of full Council on 17th December 2020, the report was referred back to this committee for further consideration.

Mr Windley gave a summary of the report, before the committee were offered the opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification on any matters.

The committee sought reassurance that the appropriate Chair or Portfolio Holder would still be expected to answer questions personally. Mr Windley confirmed that questions would remain direct to the relevant member, so officers wouldn't be expected to respond to questions on minutes.

The Chair thanked Mr Windley for his advice and opened the matter up to the committee for debate.

The committee raised concerns that this amendment would reduce the opportunity for members to scrutinise Portfolio Holders' knowledge of policy by allowing them the chance to prepare. Particular apprehensions were raised because of the Special Responsibility Allowance paid to Portfolio Holders.

However, the committee acknowledged that the prior submission of questions would grant the questioner the benefit of an immediate, clear, and comprehensive response. In addition, a questioner would also advantage by being able to ask a follow up question.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL - That Standing Order 10B be amended as set out in the report, effective from the next ordinary meeting of Council.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.51 a.m.