

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GMCA STANDARDS COMMITTEE
HELD ON FRIDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2023**

PRESENT:

Geoff Linnell	Independent Member
City Mayor Paul Dennett	Salford
Councillor Gerald Cooney	Tameside
Councillor Bev Craig	Manchester

ALSO PRESENT:

Sarah Horseman	Head of Audit and Assurance, GMCA
Gwynne Williams	Deputy Monitoring Officer, GMCA
Nicola Ward	Governance & Scrutiny, GMCA

GMSC/01/23 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and noted from Councillor Amanda Chadderton (Oldham) and Councillor Martyn Cox (Bolton).

GMSC/02/23 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

RESOLVED/-

There were none.

GMSC/03/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED/-

There were no declarations of interest.

**GMSC/04/23 MINUTES OF THE GMCA STANDARDS COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 17 DECEMBER 2021**

RESOLVED/-

That the minutes of the GMCA Standards Committee meeting held on 17 December 2021 be approved.

**GMSC/05/21 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (LGA) MODEL CODE
OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS**

Gwynne Williams, Deputy Monitoring Officer to the GMCA, took members through a report which updated the Standards Committee on the publication of the Local Government Association Model Code of Conduct for Members.

The Committee had previously considered this model code at their last meeting, however had determined to defer its adoption until Government had responded to the Committee for Standards in Public Life (CSPL) on their recommendations on suggested legislative changes. Government published its response to the CSPL's recommendations in March 2022 which was to make no legislative changes in relation to strengthening sanctions.

Members were reminded that this Code applied to all members of the GMCA, the GM Mayor and any Local Authority elected members who are appointed to a GMCA or joint committee. In addition, the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime voluntarily undertakes to abide by the Code. Mayoral Advisors are held to account either through the officer code of conduct if they are employees of the GMCA or otherwise through the standards stipulated in their appointments.

Over the past two years, four GM Local Authorities had already adopted the Model Code, therefore the Committee were asked to consider whether they would like to recommend to the GMCA to also adopt it.

Members considered that the threshold for gifts and hospitalities of £100 (or cumulative) was felt a reasonable level and in line with other Local Authorities.

The Committee also urged that the reference to disclosable pecuniary interests be made as clear as possible within the Code.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the report be noted.
2. That with the modifications referred to, the GMCA be recommended to adopt the LGA Model Code of Conduct.
3. That the arrangements for dealing with complaints under the Code of Conduct be approved and published as appropriate.

GMSC/07/23 MEMBER/OFFICER RELATIONS GUIDANCE

Gwynne Williams, Deputy Monitoring Officer GMCA, introduced a report which provided an opportunity for the Committee to review the Member/Officer Relations Guidance contained in the GMCA's Constitution.

There had been a few amendments made to this guidance, predominately to include reference to reference to behaviour on social media.

Members requested that if appropriate, reference is made to the use of Teams / Zoom meetings within this guidance.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the minor revisions be approved.

GMSC/08/23

GMCA WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

Sarah Horseman, Head of Audit and Assurance, GMCA presented a report which provided an opportunity for the Committee to review the GMCA Whistleblowing Policy.

There had been one minor change in relation to the inclusion of the Freedom to Speak Guardian route by which to whistle-blow. Members were pleased to see this inclusion.

RESOLVED/-

That the updated version of the GMCA Whistleblowing Policy be approved.