



**MINUTES OF THE CONSTITUTION AND ETHICS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT 6:00PM, ON
MONDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2024
BOURGES VIERSEN ROOMS, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

To be read in conjunction with the agenda for the meeting.

[\(Public Pack\)Agenda Constitution and Ethics Committee, 30 September 2024, 6pm
\(\[peterborough.gov.uk\]\(http://peterborough.gov.uk\)\)](#)

Should you wish to listen to the debate had, please visit the audio recording at:

[Constitution and Ethics Committee - 30 September 2024, 6pm \(audio recording\)](#)

Committee Members Present: Hemraj Chairman (Chair), Ayres, Hogg, Hiller, Farooq, Strangward.

Officers Present: Neil McArthur, Director of Legal and Governance and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Dan Snowdon, Democratic and Constitutional Services Manager
Sue Proctor, Executive and Members Services Manager
Karen S Dunleavy, Democratic Services Officer

10. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON

Following a change to Committee Membership, Members of the Committee were requested to appoint a chairperson for this meeting. Following a proposal, which was seconded, Councillor Hemraj was appointed as chairperson.

11. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ray.

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

**13. MINUTES OF THE CONSTITUTION AND ETHICS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
27 JULY 2024**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2024, were agreed as a true and accurate record.

14. **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Constitution and Ethics Committee, **RESOLVED** that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item (Honorary Alderman Status) during consideration of agenda Item 12, on the grounds that the Appendix contains exempt information under Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and that it would not be in the public interest for this information to be disclosed (Information relating to an individual)

15. **RESPONSES TO ACTIONS**

The Constitution and Ethics Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** (Unanimous) to note the report.

AGREED ACTIONS

The Director of Legal and Governance would:

- I. Confirm when the Employment Committee terms of reference was changed to amend the remit of appointment to Executive Officer posts and consider whether the outcome should be revisited.
- II. Confirm what happens to a payment to a child when the Ombudsman had not stated who would receive a compensation payment following a child complaint case.

16. **REBRAND OF CIVIC AWARDS**

The Committee requested that the issues highlighted would be included in the minutes, so that these could be picked up when a further review has been conducted on the Rebrand of Civic Awards. The issues highlighted included:

- The proposals were far removed from the ethos of the current awards scheme and seemed to commercialise it.
- The proposal reduced the number of people and was designed for the few and not the many.
- Concerns were raised about the category, community awards, particularly in relation to businesses. These should be Civic awards.
- The Committee disliked the idea of the awards becoming a competition.
- The current awards process intends to reward the public for good deeds undertaken in the community and the new proposal dilutes this.
- The current cost of the event is low.
- Group Leaders had only received an overview that a rebrand was happening, but not the full detail.
- The Committee would like more flexibility of commended for those people that had not won or awarded highly commended status would be a reasonable compromise.
- The Committee would not be minded to approve the recommendation in their current form.
- Consideration should be given to add another category of Local Hero, selected from public sector such as NHS, Fire Service, Police and Local Government.

A motion was proposed and seconded to **DEFER** the rebrand of Civic Awards so that comments of the Committee be reviewed and the proposals to come back at a meeting in November.

The Constitution and Ethics Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** (Unanimous) that this item was **DEFERRED**, for officers to review the concerns raised by the Committee and resubmit the proposal to a meeting in November 2024.

17. COUNCIL CHAMPIONS PROTOCOL

The Constitution and Ethics Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** (Unanimous) endorsed the revised Council Champions protocol and recommended it to Full Council for adoption and inclusion in the Constitution, subject to the amendments agreed by the Committee.

AGREED ACTIONS

The Constitution and Ethics Committee endorsed the revised Council Champions protocol, subject to the inclusion of a Disability Champion and recommended it to Full Council for adoption and inclusion in the Constitution and agreed that the Director Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer would:

- I. Provide detail within the protocol about how Corporate Parenting Champions and Cabinet Champions were appointed.
- II. Update the champion roles within the protocol to be named Council Champions, to provide clear distinction from other Champion roles.
- III. Include a Council Disability Champion in the protocol.

18. DISPENSATIONS

The Constitution and Ethics Committee considered and noted the updated from the Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer.

19. COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS UPDATE

The Constitution and Ethics Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** (Unanimous) to note the report on complaints received/being handled by the Monitoring Officer since the Committee's last meeting in July 2024.

20. WORK PROGRAMME

The Constitution and Ethics Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** (Unanimous) to note the content.

21. HONORARY ALDERMAN STATUS

The Constitution and Ethics Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** (Unanimous) to recommend to Full Council that Honorary Alderman Status be granted to the retired Councillors referred to in paragraph 4.4 of the exempt report.

Chairman
7.02pm