

REPORT UNDER RULE 2(VI) OF THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES**Report by Councillor McNulty, Chair of the Ethics and Engagement Committee**

The Council has now been operating as the Ethics and Engagement Committee for six years following the changes made to our pre-existing Standards Committee. The principal role of the Ethics and Engagement Committee remains as follows:

- Promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by elected and co-opted members.
- Assisting Councillors in observing the Members' Code of Conduct.
- Advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct.
- Monitoring the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct.
- Advising, training or arranging to train Councillors on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct.
- Assessing and hearing any cases of an alleged breach of the Members' Code of Conduct.
- Considering matters relating to the governance of the Council and ethical conduct by councillors, and propose relevant guidance if appropriate.
- Monitoring councillor development and offer guidance intended to improve its efficacy, value, or delivery.
- Developing innovative and effective proposals to improve democratic engagement.

I would like to place on record my thanks to all members of the Committee for their valuable contributions since my appointment as Chair on 15 May 2018. My thanks also go to Chris Elkington for the support he provides in his role as the Council's Independent Person, alongside Roger Vine acting as his reserve.

I have been keen to promote the engagement aspect of the Committee's terms of reference since being elected as Chair, so I was very proud to have the opportunity to commemorate the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote and the suffragette's through an informal event hosted by the Ethics and Engagement Committee at the Guildhall. This event was attended by representatives of the University of Lincoln, Stagecoach, Bishop Grosseteste University, Age UK, Muslim Sister's Forum, the Lincolnshire Employment Accommodation Project and the Inter-Faith Group and provided a valuable opportunity to both remember and celebrate this important anniversary but also enable the Committee to engage with a range of different community groups from across the city. The event concluded with a roundtable discussion on democracy in the Guildhall with pupils from Castle Academy who had also been provided with a tour of the building. I will be looking at the possibility of hosting similar engagement events in the future.

Since September 2017 the Committee has considered a variety of reports, including the following items:

- A review of the Consultation Strategy;
- Guidance on casework for Members;
- Provision of mobile devices to Members;

- Member development, member succession and proposed training;
- Member induction;
- Timescales associated with production and publication of minutes;
- National Democracy Week;
- Polling Station Review;
- Code of Conduct – review of local and national cases;
- Social Media Guidance and Policy.

In terms of complaints, since September 2017 I can report that two complaints were received against members both of which required no further action. Despite these complaints I am sure that Council will agree that councillors appear to be continuing to behave and interact between themselves and the public in a responsible and respectful manner. I am further reassured by the excellent training members have recently received on the Code of Conduct and the ongoing briefings and training members receive throughout the year. I think all members would also agree that the pragmatic and even-handed approach to responding to complaints by the Monitoring Officer and the Independent Person is to be welcomed.

I am looking forward to the coming year which I am sure will allow the Committee to continue to promote more engagement in the democratic process with the public and community groups in Lincoln and bring more people together to celebrate and participate in local democracy.

Councillor Adrianna McNulty