

contractor, an associated party or a concerned member of the public, and had been examined in recent years.

A summary was provided with regards to Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy, Members Planning Code, which had recently been reviewed, Monitoring Officer Protocol, Section 151 Officer Protocol and Member/Officer Protocol.

The Committee were notified that the updated protocols and policies would be shared on a digital basis and Members requested that a printed version be made available in the Members Lounge at Tameside One and also at any relevant training sessions.

RESOLVED

That the Standards Committee endorsed the current contents of Part 5 a – g of the Council Constitution.

11. FLAG FLYING PROTOCOL

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive that set out the current arrangements for flag flying on civic occasions and the arrangements for flying flags at half-mast. The current Flag Flying Protocol was appended to the report, and included details of when flags on Council buildings should be flown at half-mast.

The Committee were informed that it had been suggested that the current protocol, which had been in place since 2009, be amended to reflect changed circumstances and changing practices and that the requirement to fly flags on Council buildings in the event of the death of a former Chief Officer of the Council should be removed. An assessment of other local authority flag flying protocols showed that the inclusion of this requirement was rare and in practice difficult to apply.

RESOLVED

That the Standards Committee:

- (i) Agree that the protocol be amended to remove the requirement to fly flags on Council buildings at half-mast in the event of the death of a former Chief Officer of the Council; and**
- (ii) Note that the protocol would also be amended to reflect that the only Town Hall with a working flagpole was Dukinfield Town Hall in light of recent requirements to working at heights.**

12. REGISTER OF INTERESTS AND GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY

Members were advised that the Register of Interests and Register of Gifts and Hospitality were available online for inspection and that there had been no recent declarations of gifts and hospitality received by Members.

13. DISCUSSION PERIOD FOR MEMBERS TO RAISE ISSUES (IF ANY)

No issues were raised.

14. URGENT ITEMS

The Chair advised the Standards Committee that the Monitoring Officer was a statutory appointment under Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the current responsibilities of the Monitoring Officer role under the constitution rested with the role of Borough Solicitor (otherwise known as or referred to as the Assistant Director of Legal Services). The

Committee were informed that the Interim Assistant Director of Legal had left the authority and the Deputy Monitoring Officer was currently unavailable for a prolonged period. An appointment to the role of Assistant Director of Legal Services would be made at the next full Council meeting, scheduled for 5 December 2023, and any issues for consideration by the Monitoring Officer, would be held in abeyance up until this point.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED

That the date of the next meeting of the Standards Committee was scheduled to take place on 26 March 2024.

CHAIR