

**Extract from the draft minutes of the meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee meeting of 13 November 2018**

**134. Review of the Council's Ethical Governance Policies**

Andrew Weavers, Monitoring Officer, introduced the review of the Council's Ethical Governance Policies report. The report requests that the Committee recommend to Full Council that it adopts the statement of intent in relation to ethical governance, and that the ethical policies are reviewed and recommended to Full Council for inclusion in the Council's Policy Framework.

Andrew Weavers stated that the policies were last reviewed at the October 2017 meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee. Andrew Weavers provided the Committee with a summary of the policies included in the report, highlighting those that had been reviewed and remain unchanged as well as those that had been reviewed and updated. Andrew Weavers stated that the Acceptable Use Policy had been strengthened due to the Data Protection Act 2018. In addition, the Income and Debt Management Policy had been amended due to legislative changes, which reduce the costs of summons by £2.50.

A member of the Committee stated that they felt that the policies were reviewed thoroughly at the meeting last year and that the updates mainly reflected where legislation had changed. The Committee member also welcomed the introduction of a table on the number of occasions where the policies had been used, even though they hadn't been used during the financial year.

A further question was asked regarding the Data Protection Policy and whether the information controllers list was a public document and whether reminders were sent out to Councillors when renewals were required. Andrew Weavers confirmed that Colchester Borough Council hold a list of data controllers and that the same information would be available from the Information Commissioners Office. With regard to renewals Colchester Borough Council pays for Councillors to be registered as data controllers for the purposes of being a councillor and therefore this would be managed by Officers, however if Councillors register for political or other purposes, they would need to manage this themselves.

Councillor King, Portfolio Holder for Resources attended the meeting and highlighted the quality of the work in reviewing the policies and informed the Committee that he had held discussions with Andrew Weavers in this report prior to the meeting.

Another member of the Committee highlighted the training activities that took place including one for the General Data Protection Regulations and another for social media.

**RESOLVED;**

- a) To RECOMMEND to FULL COUNCIL the adoption of the statement of intent in relation to ethical governance.

b) To RECOMMEND to FULL COUNCIL the following revised policies for inclusion in the Council's Policy Framework –

- Anti-Fraud and Corruption
- Whistleblowing
- Anti-Money Laundering
- Covert Surveillance
- Information Security
- Data Protection
- Acceptable Use
- Income and Debt Management