



It was noted that Section 15 of the policy needed to be rephrased to clarify that council staff would not be able to access the email accounts of Members. It was recognised that the Councillor Code of Conduct would need to be revised following the adoption of the policy.

The Committee was informed that the Council was planning to migrate to a new storage management system over the coming 18 months and that the current system was effective.

**RESOLVED that the Email Security Policy, as attached at Annex A to the agenda report, as amended, be adopted.**

## **29/EC Disciplinary Policy**

The Committee considered proposed revisions to the Disciplinary Policy. The policy was presented as one of the most important in the Council, which had last been reviewed in 2018.

Members were pleased with section 6.3 of the policy outlining there was no requirement for an accompaniment to mediation meetings except for specific adjustments, but noted that it was not clear if this rule applied to all meetings referenced in the policy.

It was clarified to Members following several questions raised, that Employees subject to a Hearing would be given a minimum of 5 clear working days' notice in writing of such a meeting, which would detail the nature of the alleged misconduct in writing alongside any additional relevant information.

Following a point raised by a Member, it was agreed that section 7.3 would have a new line added outlining that staff were not required to be accompanied in an investigation into the circumstances of a contravention of Council policy or rules.

**RESOLVED that the revised Disciplinary Policy, as attached at Annex A to the agenda report, as amended, be adopted.**

## **30/EC Grievance Policy**

The Committee considered an update to the Grievance Policy. The policy was presented as one of the most important in the Council. The policy was last brought to the Committee in 2018 and no changes to the law had affected the update.

It was noted that the Chair had provided feedback which would be incorporated in the policy. An agreed revision was to clarify that only an employee of the council could raise a grievance.

Members were informed that a time limit on grievances had been introduced which meant staff could only raise a grievance within 6 months since the final act that has led to the staff member being aggrieved. Other policies including the Dignity and Respect at Work Policy and the Speak Up Policy existed to allow for historic issues to be raised.

Following a point raised by Members it was agreed that sections 8.3 and 15.7 of the policy would be revised to include that the employee who was the subject of the grievance would be informed in writing the outcome of a hearing, not just the employee who raised the grievance.

In response to a question raised, Officers confirmed that there was no recording of informal conversations had between staff and the Human Resources team. Staff were welcome to request conversations be recorded if they wanted, but Officers stressed that a deliberate effort was made to not record informal discussions with staff.

The Committee agreed that the use of workflows to visualise how key policies operate would be helpful for staff navigating relevant issues. Officers confirmed that as such workflows would reflect the existing policies, they policies did not need to be brought back to the Committee.

Following a point raised by Members, it was agreed that the wording of section 16.5 would be updated to maintain consistency with the previously adopted Disciplinary Policy, that an employee would have 10 working days from the date of the outcome letter received, to lodge an appeal.

**RESOLVED that the revised Grievance Policy, as attached at Annex A to the agenda report, as amended, be adopted.**

### **31/EC Casual & Temporary Working Policy**

The Committee considered proposed revisions to the Casual & Temporary Working Policy. The Committee was informed that the policy had been reviewed subject to new case law surrounding casual workers in the UK and that the policy was aimed at supporting managers to understand the differing types of employee at the Council.

Officers noted formatting issues on page 10 of the policy as well as a typo to correct. Officers also confirmed to Members that the policy would go live following approval that evening.

**RESOLVED that the revised Casual & Temporary Working Policy, as attached as Annex A to the agenda report, as amended, be adopted.**

**32/EC Work Programme**

The Committee considered the draft Work Programme for 2024/25.

**RESOLVED that the Work Programme for the 2024/25 municipal year, as set out at Annex A to the agenda report, be agreed.**

Chair