



EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Council Meeting 28th June 2021

Questions received from Councillor D Florence-Jukes and response by the Chairman of the Standards Committee, Councillor Mrs J Killoran

- 01/21 ***How many Member Conduct Complaints have been received by ESBC since May 2019?***
- 32
- 02/21 ***How many of the complaints received were made against elected Councillors to ESBC?***
- 18
- 03/21 ***How many of the complaints made against elected Councillors to ESBC were made by;***
- (a) members of the public*** 6
- (b) fellow elected Councillors to ESBC*** 12
- (c) other (please state in what capacity)*** 0
- 04/21 ***What has been the outcome to all complaints made against elected Councillors to ESBC since May 2019?***
- 2 referred for formal investigation; 2 rejected as outside official capacity; 2 in abeyance; 6 outside scope of assessment criteria; 6 – no breach
- 05/21 ***The Revenue and Capital Outturn Report for year end 20/21 at Appendix D, requests a revenue carry over of £20,000 to support ongoing Member conduct investigations. Please state;***
- (a) how many ESBC Member conduct investigations are currently ongoing***
- 2
- (b) how much has been incurred since May 2019 on ESBC Member conduct investigations***



£11,765

(c) how many non ESBC Member conduct investigations are currently ongoing

2

(d) how much has been incurred since May 2019 on non ESBC Member conduct investigations.

£1,250

Questions received from Councillor R G W Grosvenor and response by the Leader of the Council, Councillor D Goodfellow

06/21 ***The Revenue and Capital Outturn Report for year end 20/21 at Appendix D, requests a revenue carry over of £35,000 listed as 'Provision for Covid-19 Honorarium Payments'***

Please provide an overview of the criteria for awarding these payments

I would first like to reiterate my huge gratitude to all our teams who despite enormously challenging circumstances, kept our key front-line services delivered through the worst of the pandemic. It was recognised that this effort should not go unrecognised. The criteria was broadly based to reward all those individuals in teams whose effort at the frontline of service delivery was remarkable at the sharpest end of delivering services during the first phase of the pandemic. The additional efforts ensured continued high quality service to our residents and businesses during a very difficult time. These were key staff employees in the key areas of: Environment Services; Cemetery; Housing Options; ICT; Processing Business Grant payments. (See EDR dated 12th June 2020).

07/21 ***What is the total amount of Honorarium payments made to date since March 2020.***

£24,950 not including on costs.

08/21 ***Please state who to date has received honorarium payments and for what amount.***



Quite clearly individual data cannot be provided due to data protection regulations, however I can confirm 136 employees were paid a one off amount ranging from £100 to £300. Recipients were from the following teams: Environment Services (i.e waste management & street cleaning manual workers); Cemetery; Housing Options; ICT; Processing Business Grant payments (Revenues, Benefits & Customer Contacts, and Payments processing staff).

09/21 ***Please state who is in line to receive an honorarium payment and for what amount.***

No other payments have yet been decided but are currently being discussed based on a number of variables.

10/21 ***The decision to award honorarium payments has not been brought to Full Council. Please state who authorised such payments (or the decision to request a carry over for such payments) and where this decision is recorded (this does not refer to the approval of recommendations at Cabinet for the carryover amount but the agreement to make the payments prior to this).***

This decision was recorded in EDR (204/20) dated 12th June 2020, nor was it a decision that is required to be brought to Full Council. The constitution states the Chief Executive has the responsibility to appoint staff, and to determine the terms and conditions on which they hold office ..." (1.1.14 in the table at the beginning of Part 3Z). The EDR was signed jointly the Chief Executive and myself as Leader.

11/21 ***Could the Leader of the Council provide a percentage estimate of the amount of work the Cabinet Support members are providing to their Cabinet members they are supporting. This is a percentage in terms of the amount of work compared to the Cabinet member.***

Unfortunately I am unable to answer that question in the manner posed, as the premise of the question fundamentally fails to understand how the role of cabinet support member operates in practice. The Cabinet support members operate on a project basis based on need, experience, and expertise. Over the course of a year, the Cabinet Support members will work on a variety of projects assisting a variety of Cabinet members. This gives a significant degree of flexibility and allows resource to be deployed based on need to assist in the oversight and delivery of the Corporate Plan and any other unforeseen challenges that may arise.



The Cabinet Support members attend an at least weekly informal meeting of the Cabinet, they attend the fortnightly Leaders and Deputy Leaders Meeting as well as formal meetings of the Cabinet. They will also attend additional meetings as required based on the project work that they are undertaking.

As has been alluded to above – the new role of Cabinet Support member provides a flexible and dynamic method of working, whilst also providing opportunities for skills and experience to be developed, and I was delighted to be able to offer Cllr Bev Ashcroft her current role on Cabinet following her successful time as a Cabinet Support member. I was delighted to be able to ask Cllr Mike Metcalfe to join as a new Cabinet Support member and welcome his wise counsel.

The role of Cabinet Support member has proven particularly valuable as it offers this breadth and flexibility whilst also providing better value to the East Staffordshire taxpayer. The current Cabinet/Cabinet Support model provides a near £7,000 annual cost saving on special responsibility allowances versus the Cabinet model in place immediately prior to my election as Leader of East Staffordshire Borough Council in 2019.

I always welcome an opportunity to formally recognise the incredible hard work and effort of my Cabinet colleagues, so am delighted to have this as another opportunity to formally do so. The past 18 months have been amongst the most challenging in living memory and I'm incredibly proud of how my Cabinet have pulled together and worked tirelessly for the residents of East Staffordshire. It's not a case of how much time relative to someone else has spent on something, it's around how a team of people have worked incredibly well together in the new world we found ourselves in, it's how they've worked hard in taking decisions to keep our key services operational, quickly deployed resource to support our fantastic local businesses, fostered collaborative relationships across the spectrum of local delivery partners, and always given 100% in everything they do. I would like to place on record my thanks for their amazing hard work and effort.

I would like to pay particular thanks to Cllr Sue McGarry who since joining as a Cabinet Support member has been a strong and relentless advocate for the interests of our residents, communities, and businesses around the Cabinet table. Sue's work in supporting various elements of the Waste Review process have been invaluable, and her roles in leading the post-Covid Re-opening the High Street's Safely and Welcome Back initiatives have been pivotal in helping the recovery of our High Streets and Town Centre Centres as we emerge from the Coronavirus restrictions.

