

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

HELD: 14 JULY 2011

Start: 4.30pm

Finish: 5.00pm

PRESENT

Independent Members: J Cailles (Chairman)
P Hanmer (Vice Chairman)
S Ibbs
B Winstanley

Councillors: Mrs U Atherley R Bailey
J Davis I Moran

Parish Councillors: J Citarella R Coady

Officers: Acting Borough Solicitor
Assistant Member Services Manager

1. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Independent Member, Mr P Rogan and Councillor R Bailey.

2. URGENT BUSINESS, IF ANY, INTRODUCED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There were no items of urgent business.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 7 April 2011, be received as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS, APPOINTMENT OF PARISH REPRESENTATIVE AND TRAINING

The Committee considered the report of the Director of People and Places which welcomed the new Members of the Committee, considered the appointment of a Parish Representative due to the vacancy that had arisen and detailed training undertaken since the last update report in June 2010.

RESOLVED: A. That Councillors Davis and Moran be welcomed as new Members on the Committee.

- B. That the Director of People and Places, in consultation with the Chairman, appoint the nominee with the highest number of votes received, as Parish Representative until the Annual Meeting in May 2012, once the appointment process is complete as detailed in paragraph 3 of the report.
- C. That the training undertaken since the last update be noted and those members of the Committee requiring further / refresher training on the Local Assessment process attend the session being held at the rise of this meeting.

6. OFFICER CODE OF CONDUCT

The Committee considered the report of the Director of People and Places setting out a revised Code of Conduct for Officers and in this respect advising that the existing Code had been in place for several years. The report advised that the Code had been amended to reflect changes in legislation as well as the recent and significant structural reorganisation.

The Committee was advised that the report had been considered at the Audit and Governance Committee on 29 June 2011 when a question was raised in respect of the re-worded Paragraph 7.2 and the removal of a requirement for officers to declare membership of a Trade Union.

Reference was also made to Schedule 1 (b), in respect of the disclosure of confidential information questioning if this should be in a written format.

- RESOLVED:
- A. That the new Code of Conduct for Officers, attached as an Appendix to the report, be approved and circulated to all staff.
 - B. That the questions raised in respect of the Code be noted and should any further changes be required these be reported to Audit and Governance Committee on 28 September 2011.

7. BRIBERY ACT 2010

The Committee considered the report of the Director of People and Places which advised on the impact of the Bribery Act 2010 (the Act) and the proposed procedures to give effect to its requirements within the Council.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

8. THE FUTURE OF THE STANDARDS REGIME

The Acting Borough Solicitor advised that the Localism Bill intended to give effect to the replacement standards regime was currently in the House of Lords, however no greater clarity had been received and no timescales identified.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

9. COMPLAINTS - STATISTICS

The Committee was advised that one complaint had been received this year which was subject to an investigation and a further complaint received in the previous years statistics had been dealt with by the Review Sub-Committee on 26 May 2011.

RESOLVED: That the latest statistics be noted.

10. MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES

The Committee considered the minutes of the Assessment Sub-Committee held on 6 April and 4 May 2011 and the Review Sub-Committee of 26 May 2011.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be noted.

11. WORK PROGRAMME 2011/12

The Committee considered the Work Programme for 2011/12.

RESOLVED: That the Work Programme be noted.

THE CHAIRMAN