

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

HELD: 7 APRIL 2011
Start: 4.30pm
Finish: 4.55pm

PRESENT

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

Councillors: Mrs U Atherley R Bailey
R Pendleton

Parish Councillors: J Citarella R Coady

Officers: Director Designate (Council Secretary & Solicitor)
Acting Borough Solicitor
Assistant Member Services Manager

31. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Parish Councillor Andrew Cheetham.

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

There were no items of urgent business.

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

34. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee be received as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

35. CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT - INDEPENDENT MEMBER

The Committee was advised that at the Council Meeting held on 15 December 2010, the minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2010 were received and the recommendation to reappoint Mr P Hanmer as an Independent Member for a future one year term of office had been approved.

RESOLVED: That the reappointment of Mr P Hanmer as Independent Member to the Standards Committee until May 2012 be noted.

36. COMPLAINTS - STATISTICS

The Committee was advised that two complaints had been received this year to date. The first complaint had been considered by the Assessment Sub-Committee on 6 April 2011 and the second would be dealt with by the Sub-Committee in May.

The Director Designate (Council Secretary and Solicitor) advised that as the current regime was still in place, existing procedures would continue in order to deal with these matters. She further advised that in this respect training on the Code of Conduct would be provided to new Borough Councillors in May 2011, with the updated Training Pack and existing Councillors would be welcome to attend. Bespoke training for Standards Committee Members on the Code and Local Assessment procedures to deal with any new complaints/reviews etc. would also be provided.

RESOLVED: That the latest statistics and proposed forthcoming training be noted.

37. MAINTAINING HIGH ETHICAL STANDARDS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Director Designate (Council Secretary and Solicitor) referred to a joint publication she had received from the Local Government Information and Development and the Association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors in respect of the future of the Standards regime which contained a summary of current proposals contained in the Localism Bill.

The Committee discussed various elements of the paper and possible timescales.

RESOLVED: That the current position be noted.

38. WORK PROGRAMME 2011/12

The Committee considered the Work Programme for 2011/12. The Director Designate (Council Secretary and Solicitor) advised that item 15. "Annual Meeting with the Standards Committee, the Chief Executive and Leaders of the 2 main Political Groups" would be put 'on hold' until the future of the standards regime was finalised.

RESOLVED: That the Work Programme be noted.

CHAIRMAN