

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

HELD: 17 SEPTEMBER 2015

Start: 5.00pm

Finish: 5.25pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Moran (Chairman)

Ashcroft Mrs Marshall
Davis Wright

In attendance: Mr S Garvey (Reserve Independent Person)

Officers: Managing Director (People and Places) (Mrs G Rowe)
Borough Solicitor (Mr T Broderick)
Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer (Mrs C A Jackson)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mr S Ibbs (Independent Person).

2. SUBSTITUTIONS

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.1, as related to Standards Committee substitutions, Members noted the termination of membership of Councillor D Westley and the appointment of Councillor Ashcroft, for this meeting only, thereby giving effect to the wishes of the Political Groups

3. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Standards Committee held on 18 September 2014 be received as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. LOCAL GOVERNMENT STANDARDS

The Committee considered the joint report of the Managing Director (People and Places) and the Borough Solicitor, as contained on pages 7 to 22 of the Book of Reports that set out the observations reported by the Committee on Standards in Public Life in its 'Annual Report 2014-2015' relating to Local Government Standards'.

RESOLVED: That the observations of the Committee on Standards in Public Life on Local Government Standards, as referenced at paragraph 4, be noted.

7. FRAMEWORK FOR DELIVERING GOOD GOVERNANCE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Borough Solicitor and Borough Treasurer, as contained on pages 23 to 54 of the Book of Reports, which advised Members of the consultation being undertaken by the CIPFA/SOLACE Joint Working Group on Good Governance in Local Government on the revised framework for delivery good governance in local government. The report was scheduled to be considered by the Audit and Governance Committee at its meeting on 29 September 2015. The report recommended that, as the consultation deadline was 28 September 2015, that the Council's response to the document, attached at Appendix 1, be submitted to CIPFA following agreement at this meeting.

- RESOLVED:
- A. That the consultation on the revised draft 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: a Framework' by the CIPFA/SOLACE Joint Working Group, attached at Appendix 1 to the Report, be noted.
 - B. That the Council's response to the document, attached at Appendix 2 to the Report, be agreed.

8. STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2014/2015

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Managing Director (People and Places) and Borough Solicitor, as contained on pages 55 to 64 of the Book of Reports, which provided details of the work undertaken by the Committee during 2014/15.

- RESOLVED: That the Standards Committee Annual Report 2015/16, attached at Appendix 1 to the Report, be noted, endorsed and published on the Council's website.

9. ANNUAL MONITORING OF TRAINING REPORT 2014/15

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Managing Director (People and Places) and Borough Solicitor, as contained on pages 65 to 69 of the Book of Reports which detailed training undertaken to date and its effectiveness in relation to the Code of Conduct and standards.

Feedback from the Code of Conduct training held early in the year had been good. Members indicated that Members, including those from the Parishes, had preferred the May date for this annual training event.

- RESOLVED: That the training undertaken and the evaluation of it be noted.

10. ANNUAL REVIEW OF INDEPENDENT PERSON PROTOCOL

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Managing Director (People and Places) and Borough Solicitor as set down at pages 71 to 76 of the Book of Reports. The Committee reviewed the arrangements in place relating to the role of the Independent Person and Reserve Independent Person and proffered their thanks to them both for their assistance to the Council in the discharge of its duty to promote and

maintain high standards of conduct amongst Borough, Parish and Co-opted Members within West Lancashire.

- RESOLVED:
- A. That the Independent Person Protocol, attached at Appendix 1 to the Report, be endorsed.
 - B. That the thanks of the Committee to the Independent Person (IP) and Reserve Independent Person (RIP), be recorded.

12. COMPLAINTS STATISTICS

The Committee considered the circulated complaints statistics for 2014/15 and 2015/16 to date, as set down at pages 77 to 84 of the Book of Reports.

The IP, who was unable to attend the meeting, asked that his congratulations be submitted, as there had been no complaints made to date this year. This compliment was echoed by the RIP.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, thanked the IP and RIP for the work that had been undertaken in relation to complaints.

- RESOLVED: That the Standards Complaints Statistics, attached at Appendix 1 and 2 to the Report, be noted.

13. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the Work Programme.

It was agreed that reference to the Code of Conduct training be amended on the Work Programme, to be arranged for early June 2016.

- RESOLVED: That the Work Programme be noted and updated to include the Code of Conduct training as scheduled to take place in early June 2016.

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Chairman