

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

HELD: Tuesday, 21 March 2017

Start: 5.00pm

Finish: 5.35pm

PRESENT:

Councillor: I Moran (Chairman)

Councillors: D Westley Mrs J Marshall
K Wright

In attendance: Mr S Ibbs (The Independent Person)
Mr S Garvey (Reserve Independent Person)

Officers: Borough Solicitor (Mr T Broderick)
Legal and Member Services Manager (Mr M Jones)
Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer (Mrs C A Jackson)

35 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Davis.

36 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no changes to membership of the Committee.

37 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

38 URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

39 PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no items under this heading.

40 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Standards Committee held on 20 September 2016 be received as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

41 WHISTLEBLOWING CODE

The Borough Solicitor advised that the Whistleblowing Code, included as part of the work programme for the Committee, is as set down at 17.2 of the Constitution and applies to all employees under a contract of employment with the Council, including Council contractors and suppliers. He reported that there are no relevant changes or updates to it at this time. However, the Code is scheduled to be reviewed, with the Borough Treasurer and will be considered by the Audit and Governance

Committee and this Committee, once the officer review has been undertaken.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

42 OFFICER CODE OF CONDUCT

The Borough Solicitor advised the Committee that the Officers' Code of Conduct is set down at 17.1 of the Constitution and applies to all employees under a contract of employment with the Council. It provides a very clear framework for employees to follow and ensures that high standards are maintained. He reported that there are no relevant changes or updates to it at this time. However, the Officers' Code is scheduled to be reviewed, with the Borough Treasurer and will be considered by the Audit and Governance Committee and this Committee, once the officer review has been undertaken.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

43 INDEPENDENT PERSON - PROTOCOL

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Solicitor as contained on pages 57 to 62 of the Book of Reports that gave details in relation to the Independent Person Protocol as set down at 16.5 of the Constitution. The Protocol is reviewed by the Committee annually. It was reported that there had been no significant changes since the report was considered by the Committee in March 2016.

RESOLVED: That the Independent Person Protocol, attached at Appendix 1, be endorsed.

44 COMPLAINTS STATISTICS

The Committee considered the report of the Borough Solicitor providing the Standards Complaints Statistics for the period 1 April 2016 to 13 March 2017, as contained on pages 63 to 68 of the Book of Reports.

RESOLVED: That the Standards Complaints Statistics, attached at Appendix 1, be noted.

45 WORK PROGRAMME AND DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Consideration was given to the Work Programme and the dates of future meetings of the Committee.

In concluding the meeting, the Chairman on behalf of the Committee, thanked the Independent Person and Reserve Independent Person for their service to the Council and their continuing help to promote and maintain standards of conduct amongst Members. This was echoed by all Members present.

RESOLVED: A. That the Work Programme and future dates of meetings, 19 September 2017 and 20 March 2018, be noted.

B. That the thanks of the Committee, to the Independent Person and Reserve Independent Person for their service, be noted.

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Chairman