

Time commenced – 6.02pm
Adjourned – 7.46pm

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
25 October 2016

Present: Councillors Shanker (Chair), Graves, A Holmes, Jackson, Whitby and Alan Cameron, Peter Purnell and Philip Sunderland

In Attendance: Janie Berry –Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer
Steven Mason – Democratic Services Officer

34/15 Apologies

There were none.

35/15 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

36/15 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Graves declared an interest in one of the complaints, to be considered at 40/15, and that he would leave the room during consideration of that complaint.

37/15 Minutes of the meetings held on 19 July 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2016 was agreed as a correct record.

38/15 Ethical Governance Update

The Committee received a report of the Monitoring Officer on Ethical Governance Update.

It was reported that it was essential that the Council retained high standards of ethical governance for all of its Elected Members for the public for transparency reasons and also to ensure that the Code of Conduct was being adhered to.

It was also reported that following the local elections in May 2016, and the by-election in September 2016, all Elected Members had been required to undertake DBS checks and ensure their Declarations of Interest forms were reviewed and updated.

Members noted that 50 out of 51 Councillors had participated in the process. Members also noted that due to health reasons, Councillor Wright had been unable to participate in the DBS process and the Committee was therefore requested to consider a dispensation in this regard.

It was reported that the Standards Committee currently had one vacancy for an Independent Person. It was also reported that the vacancy had been advertised on the Council's website, along with recruitment for independent persons on the Independent Remuneration Panel and the Audit and Accounts Committee.

Resolved:

- 1. to note that all Councillors have updated and or completed Declarations of Interest which are now publicly available in the Council's website;**
- 2. to note that 50 of the 51 Councillors have participated in the DBS process;**
- 3. to approve that Councillor Wright is granted a dispensation from participating in and completing the DBS process; and**
- 4. to note that recruitment is currently underway for independent persons on the Standards Committee, the Independent Remuneration Panel and the Audit and Accounts Committee.**

39/15 Exclusion of press and Public

Resolved that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

**40/15 Summary of Progress with Member Complaints
2016/17**

The Committee received a report of the Monitoring Officer on Summary of Progress with Member Complaints 2016/17.

Councillor Graves left the room before consideration of the particular complaint that he had declared an interest in.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the report;**
- 2. to agree, acknowledging the decision, no sanction for 21/2015;**
- 3. to agree, in relation to 24/2015, acknowledging the decision, that the subject member be asked to write a letter of explanation to the relevant Residents' Association; and**
- 4. to agree, in relation to 25/2015, that the Monitoring Officer should seek the views of the subject member, following the subject members receipt of the final draft decision, to determine the final outcome of the complaint.**

MINUTES END