

Time Commenced – 4.02pm
Time Finished – 4.40pm

STANDARDS COMMITTEE 4 November 2014

Present: Councillor Tittley (Chair)
Councillor Jackson
Alan Cameron (Independent Person)
Ian Green (Independent Person)
Peter Purnell (Co-opted Member)

01/14 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Shanker and Philip Sunderland.

02/14 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

03/14 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

04/14 Minutes of the Meeting Held on 27 March 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2014 were noted.

05/14 Review of the Standards Regime

The Committee received a report of the Monitoring Officer on Review of the Standards Regime. The report gave Members the opportunity to consider and comment upon the Standards Regime operated by Derby City Council and review each of the key documents adopted or approved since July 2014.

Members noted that there had been a large number of complaints received in the previous municipal year and asked how that compared to the current municipal year. It was reported that the number of complaints received in the current municipal year was vastly reduced. Members discussed the possible reasons for this.

In respect of the procedure for considering complaints, adopted by Council on 23 May 2012, Members noted that amendments had been approved at the last meeting of the Standards Committee.

Members discussed the Declaring Interests – Questions to Ask Yourself form, approved by the Standards Committee on 26 November 2013, issued with the agenda of every relevant meeting. The Chair supported its continued use as it demonstrated good ethical governance.

It was reported that at its meeting on 27 March 2014, the Standards Committee approved the use of guidance notes to provide the subject member with guidance on the consultation role of the Independent Person (IP), as at paragraph 3 of the procedure for considering complaints. Members noted that the guidance notes were as yet untested.

Members considered the procedure for hearings of the Standards Committee. Members noted that the procedure had been adapted for use in relation to a complaint received under the old corporate complaints procedure. Members asked the Monitoring Officer to review the procedure and bring a report to the next meeting of the Standards Committee with any suggested changes.

Members discussed the current make-up of the Committee and noted that there were currently two vacancies. It was reported that other political groups had taken the view that they didn't want to take part in the process at this point in time. A Co-opted Member felt it was unsatisfactory if only one political group was involved in the Standards Committee. It was agreed that it would be more beneficial if all political groups participated. Members requested an update on the proposed topic review into the Standards Regime that was discussed at the last meeting of the Standards Committee.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the report;**
- 2. to request that the Monitoring Officer reviews the procedure for hearings of the Standards Committee and brings a report to the next meeting; and**
- 3. to request an update on the proposed topic review into the Standards Regime that was discussed at the last meeting of the Standards Committee.**

06/14 Exclusion of Press and Public

Resolved to exclude the press and public during consideration of minute 22/13 under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

07/14 Summary of Progress of Complaints

The Committee received a report of the Monitoring Officer on Summary of Progress with Member Complaints 2014/15.

Resolved to note the report.

MINUTES END