

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7 JULY 2008

Present: Dr S Bradley (Independent Member), Deputy Chairman in the Chair.

Councillors: N Clarkson; G Garrity

Mr R Stewart (Parish Member) Mr V Chilton (Parish Member)

Apologies for absence were received from Mr N Woodcock (Independent Member) (Chairman); Councillors Mrs M Docherty and Mrs M B Woodburn

Officers: M Jepson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services; T Capper Democratic Services Manager

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2008 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

STA 03 Terms of Reference of Standards Committee

The Committee considered the revised Terms of Reference of the Standards Committee as agreed by the Council at the 2008 Annual Meeting.

It was noted that the main changes to the Terms of Reference related to the new roles of the Committee in local screening and determination of complaints, and in determining applications from Council employees for exemptions from political restrictions on posts.

RESOLVED – that the revised Terms of Reference be noted.

STA 04 Standards Committee Work Plan

Members discussed and noted the present status of the items on the Standards Committee work plan agreed at the meeting in February.

It was suggested that the piece on ethical governance and the role of the Standards Committee to be published in Copeland Matters be forwarded to CALC for information.

STA 05 Council Progress Against National Ethical Governance Criteria

The Committee considered and noted the Council's progress against the Audit Commission's Key Lines of Enquiry for Use of Resources measure and the Key Lines of Enquiry for Corporate Governance measure.

It was noted that the Council's performance was at Level 3 for the KLOE Use of Resources measure except for National Fraud Initiative measure which could not be achieved for technical reasons which were expected to be addressed through legislation. For Corporate Governance the Council complied with Adequate Arrangements for most categories of the measure; areas where some further work is required were noted in paragraph 3 of the report.

The Committee also considered the Council's own assessment of its position against the Good Governance Standard for Public Service.

Arising from the report Members discussed situations where have difficulty in obtaining information about Council services other than by Freedom of Information requests, and it was agreed that this should be addressed in the next version of the Member-Officer Relations Protocol.

The meeting closed at 3.40 pm

Chairman