

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12 September 2011

Present: Councillors: Geoff Garrity; Ian Hill; Alistair Norwood; Jack Park; Bob Salkeld; Jeanette Williams

Dr Steve Bradley (Independent Member); (Chairman); Mr Anthony Payne, (Independent Member) Mr Ranald Stewart (Parish Member)

Officers: Tim Capper, Democratic Services Manager and Monitoring Officer

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sam Pollen; Mr Adrian Dalton (Parish Member); Mrs Pat Routledge (Independent Member)

STA 07 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2011 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

STA 08 Draft Annual Report of the Standards Committee

Consideration was given to the draft Annual Report of the Standards Committee for 2010/11. Following a discussion it was

RESOLVED – that the draft Annual Report of the Standards Committee be approved and submitted to Council for information.

STA 09 Satisfaction Questionnaire

The Committee considered a draft satisfaction questionnaire intended for use by participants (complainants and members subject to complaints) in investigations into allegations of misconduct.

RESOLVED – that the draft questionnaire be agreed for future use.

STA 10 Ongoing Cases – Update

The Committee received a verbal update on outstanding cases. There was one case, which would be dealt with later in the meeting.

STA 11 **Localism Bill**

The Committee received an update from the Democratic Services Manager on the current position on the provisions in the Localism Bill which would impact on the Standards Committee and the Code of Conduct. It was noted that the main effect of the changes in the Bill would be an end to the current mandatory framework and its replacement by voluntary arrangements, with considerable discretion for individual authorities to choose their own. It was also noted that there was still considerable uncertainty over how the details of the proposals in the Bill would work in practice.

RESOLVED – that the position is noted and that the Committee receives further regular updates as the Bill progresses through Parliament.

STA 12 **Exclusion of Press and Public**

RESOLVED – that the press and public be excluded for the remaining items of business in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended.

STA 13 **Investigating Officer's Report**

The Committee considered the report of an independent Investigating Officer appointed by the Monitoring Officer to investigate an allegation of breaches of the Code of Conduct by a Member of the Council.

Following a debate it was moved by Councillor Bob Salkeld, duly seconded and

RESOLVED – that the Investigating Officer's conclusions and finding that there have been no breaches of the Code of Conduct be accepted.

The meeting closed at 11.30 am

Chairman