

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2009

Present: Dr S Bradley (Independent Member) (Chairman).

Councillors: N Clarkson; B Dixon; Mrs M Docherty; G Garrity; D Moore; R Salkeld; Mrs M Woodburn

Mr A Payne, (Independent Member)

Mr R Stewart; (Parish Member)

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs P Routledge (Independent Member); Mr V Chilton (Parish Member)

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

STA 07 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 2009 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

STA 08 Standards Committee Work Plan for 2009/2010

The Committee discussed progress on the items in the Standards Committee Work Plan for the current year.

STA 09 Legislative Changes

The Committee considered a report setting out the contents of the Standards Committee (Further Provisions) (England) Regulations 2009 which introduced changes to arrangements for dispensations for Councillors and Parish Councillors, provided a discretion for local authorities to establish joint standards committees, and powers to the Standards Board for England to intervene in a Council Standards Committee in certain circumstances.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted and no action taken for the time being on establishment of a joint Standards Committee.

STA 10 Member-Officer Protocol

The Committee considered a report setting out proposed changes to the Member-Officer Protocol in respect of meetings.

RESOLVED – that the proposed amendments to the Protocol be agreed and implemented.

STA 11 Member-Officer Survey

The Committee considered the content and format of the surveys of Members and Officers on ethical governance in the Council.

RESOLVED – that the proposed format and content be agreed

STA 12 Ethical Governance Workshop

The Committee considered an suggested outline programme for an ethical governance workshop for all Councillors.

STA 13 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 14 Investigation Report

The Committee considered a report of an independent investigating officer into an allegation of a breach of the Code of Conduct by a Member of the Council.

Following a discussion it was

RESOLVED – that the Committee agrees with the Investigating Officer's finding that there has been no breach of the Code of Conduct but that the offer by the subject Member to make an apology be accepted.

The meeting closed at 3.30 pm

Chairman

