

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13 JUNE 2011

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

Dr Steve Bradley (Independent Member); (Chairman); Mr Anthony Payne, (Independent Member) Mrs Pat Routledge (Independent Member)

Officers: Tim Capper, Democratic Services Manager and Interim Monitoring Officer

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Randal Stewart (Parish Member); Mr Adrian Dalton (Parish Member)

STA 01 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 March were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

STA 02 Satisfaction Survey and Annual Report of Standards Committee

It was noted that the draft Annual Report of the Standards Committee for 2010/11 and the satisfaction survey to be distributed to subjects, complainants and witnesses in investigations were in progress and would be reported to the next meeting of the Committee in September.

STA 03 Roles and Responsibilities of Standards Committee

Following the changes in membership of the Committee in May 2011, Members received a presentation by the Democratic Services Manager on the roles and responsibilities of the Standards Committee, particularly the roles of Assessment and Review Sub Committees in the local assessment and determination of complaints. It was noted that the present roles of the Standards Committee would remain in place pending changes to the ethical governance framework in the Localism Bill currently before Parliament.

STA 04 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 05 Update on Ongoing Cases

The Committee received an update on outstanding cases under investigation. There was one case, and it was expected that the Investigation Report would be complete within approximately 2 months.

STA 06 Further Training for Standards Committee Members

The Committee discussed possible further training for the Committee on the local assessment process, using material prepared by Standards for England from real cases.

It was agreed that a half day's training be arranged in July on a day convenient to the majority of Committee members.

The meeting closed at 3.45 pm

Chairman