

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7 MARCH 2011

Present: Councillors: Mrs M Docherty; G Garrity; D Moore; R Salkeld;

Dr S Bradley (Independent Member); (Chairman); Mr A Payne, (Independent Member) Mrs P Routledge (Independent Member)

R Stewart (Parish Member) A Dalton (Parish Member)

Officers: M Jepson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services; D James, Member Services Officer

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor N Clarkson and Mrs M Woodburn

STA 47 Progress on Annual Work Plan for 2010/11

Consideration was given to a report updating Member on progress made with regard to their Annual Work Plan. Members were asked specifically to give guidance on two issues

- a) Satisfaction levels of all involved in misconduct allegations.

It was noted that the questionnaire had not yet been completed and Members stressed the importance of completing this document, they also emphasised that when allocating a case to an independent investigator a specific timescale must be given to ensure that allegations were determined quickly (2.9 of the report refers)

- b) Protocol for Partnership Working

Consideration was given to a draft Partnership behaviour protocol as recommended by the Standards for England. Members agreed the format and asked for a Copeland version of the document to be drawn up.

RESOLVED – That a) the report be noted;

- b) the satisfaction questionnaire be completed and implemented;
- c) specific timescales be given when allocation cases to the independent investigator; and

- d) A Copeland specific partnership behaviour protocol be drawn up in line with the protocol recommended by the Standards for England.

STA 48 **Localism Bill**

Consideration was given to a report updating Members of the Localism Bill for the Standards Committee. It was noted that although there was no requirement to have a code of conduct dealing with the conduct of Members and co-opted members there was a power to introduce one. Members considered whether to revise its existing code, adopt a new code or to withdraw the existing without replacing it.

RESOLVED – That a) the report be noted; and

b) a new Code of Conduct to replace the existing code be drawn up.

STA 49 **Annual Report 2010/11**

Consideration was given as to whether Members wanted an annual report to be produced for 2010/11 and if so how it should be drafted.

RESOLVED – That a) an annual report for be drafted for 2010/11;

b) once the document is completed a special meeting be set up to consider the draft document prior to submission to Council; and

c) more statistical detail be included over matters brought to the attention of the committee (paragraph 2.7 of the report refers).

The meeting closed at 3.45 pm

Chairman