

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5 MARCH 2011

Present: Dr Steve Bradley (Independent Member) (Chairman);

Councillors: Geoff Garrity; Alistair Norwood; Sam Pollen; Bob Salkeld;

Mr Anthony Payne (Independent Member)

Officers: Tim Capper, Democratic Services Manager and Monitoring Officer

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ian Hill, Jack Park and Jeanette Williams; Mr Adrian Dalton and Mr Ranald Stewart (Parish Members); Mrs Pat Routledge (Independent Member)

STA 18 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 December were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

STA 19 **Localism Act**

The Committee received an update from the Democratic Services Manager on the current position on the provisions in the Localism Act concerning the conduct of members.

It was noted that the statutory and mandatory provisions relating to the appointment, function (independent and parish member) of the Standards Committee in the Local Government Act 2000 had been repealed, to be replaced by a regime under which all authorities would be required to adopt a Code of Conduct based on the Nolan Principles of conduct in public life.

It was noted that the regulations setting out the new Disclosable Pecuniary Interests that Members would need to register and/or declare in meetings had still not been received. There was also uncertainty about the position of current Independent Members of the Committee being appointed as independent persons under the new arrangements, though it appeared at this stage that they would not be eligible.

It was noted that the Cumbria Monitoring Officer Network was working on producing a common model code that could be recommended to all authorities in the County.

The Committee also considered a first draft of a proposed procedure for determining allegations of breaches of the Code of Conduct under the new arrangements.

RESOLVED – that (a) the position on implantation of the conduct provisions in the Localism Act is noted;

(b) the draft procedure for determination of complaints be agreed in principle, subject to addition of appeal provisions; and

(c) further reports be made to future meetings of this Committee.

STA 20 **Ongoing Cases – Update**

There were no outstanding cases.

The meeting closed at 3.15 pm

Chairman