

STANDARDS COMMITTEE**21 June 2017 at 7.30 pm**

MEMBERS: Mr Anthony Hazeldine (Chair), Mr David Wales (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Peter Struik, Joyce Melican, Simon Wales, Tony Shields, Trish Fivey and Nick Emmerson

ABSENT: Ifat Shah

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were received from Ifat Shah.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2016 were approved as a correct record, and signed by the Chair.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. ANY URGENT BUSINESS

No urgent business was raised.

5. OPERATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Jessica Crowe, Monitoring Officer, presented the report which updated the committee on complaints which have been received and dealt with since the last meeting.

At the discretion of the Chair, a member of the public who had raised a complaint was invited to speak. The resident expressed dissatisfaction at how general complaints are dealt with by the Council and the clarity of that procedure, requesting greater openness and transparency in this respect.

In response, the Monitoring Officer explained the narrow remit of the Standards Committee under legislation and agreed to look at the clarification of information available online. Mr David Wales, Independent Member, repeated a previous request to ensure that complaints about the Council are dealt with correctly.

Members further discussed the timescales of complaints raised and the Monitoring Officer proposed to bring information on Key Customer Care Performance Indicators to the Standards Committee.

Members commented upon the public question procedure at local committees in respect of one complaint. The Monitoring Officer reminded Members of the Chair’s discretion in setting indicative timings for the agenda and inviting contributions from residents, particularly at local committees. She also noted that cross-party discussions were taking place on possible constitutional changes, which provided a forum for procedural improvements to be raised and consensus reached.

Finally, the Committee discussed independent investigation options and the alternative channels that existed to review and challenge Council decisions.

Those present noted the report.

6. MEMBER DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Fiona Bywaters, Committee Services Team Leader, presented the report which updated the committee on member development programme and events scheduled since the last meeting.

In response, Members discussed the respective advantages and disadvantages of becoming more of a paperless Council. It was proposed by the Monitoring Officer to include one-to-one technology training as part of the induction 2018 to ensure Members are fully able to carry out their duties.

Members welcomed the survey proposed under Paragraph 4.7 and further discussed mandatory training as well as the new initiative to record member development sessions.

Those present noted the report.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on 13 September 2017.

The meeting ended at 8.26 pm

Chair:

Date: