

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
25 APRIL 2012**

**Present:** Philip Sunderland (Chair)  
Peter McCrea, Peter Purnell and Dionne Reid  
Councillors Jackson, Skelton and Wood

**22/11 Apologies**

There were no apologies for absence.

**23/11 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair**

There were no late items.

**24/11 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**25/11 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 December 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**26/11 To consider a recommendation for the New  
Standards Regime**

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services presented a report on The New Standards Regime. Members noted that the report set out the new Standards Regime under the Localism Act 2011 which would come into effect on 1 July 2012. It was explained that the report also updated Members on what consideration the Council had already given to the matter and the Scrutiny Management Commission's recommendations on what route the Council should take where it had discretion.

Members discussed what Code of Conduct should be adopted by the Council and considered four different proposals. Members agreed that the old Code of Conduct was comprehensive, familiar to members and had worked well. It was agreed that the old Model Code of Conduct should be adopted by Council.

Members then considered how many Independent Persons should be appointed to the Standards Committee by Council. Members noted that Independent Persons would not have voting rights, but recognised the importance of their views being sought. It was agreed that Council should seek to appoint two independent persons and two co-opted Independent Members. It was also agreed that there should be five elected members.

Members discussed the proposed new procedure for processing and considering complaints about breaches of the Code of Conduct and considered whether it met the Scrutiny Management Commission's aims of making it more streamlined, efficient and transparent. Members agreed it did and recommended that Council should adopt the proposed new procedure.

**Resolved to recommend that Council:**

- 1. adopts the old Model Code of Conduct at Appendix 2;**
- 2. seeks to appoint two Independent Persons and two co-opted Independent Members and five elected members to the Standards Committee;**
- 3. adopts the procedure for processing and considering complaints for breaches of the Code of Conduct attached at Appendix 6, subject to minor alterations agreed at the meeting.**

**27/11      Exclusion of Press and Public**

**Resolved to exclude the press and public during consideration of minute 28/11 under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that it would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.**

**28/11      Summary of Progress of Complaints**

The Committee considered a report setting out details of the progress and outcome of the Member complaints received so far in the 2011-2012 municipal year.

**Resolved to note the report.**

MINUTES END