

Time Commenced – 4.04pm
Time Finished – 4.55pm

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
25 April 2013

Present: Councillor Tittley (Chair)
Councillor Barker
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Shanker
Councillor Skelton
Alan Cameron (Independent Person)
Peter McCrea (Independent Person)
Philip Sunderland (Co-opted Member)

09/12 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Peter Purnell.

10/12 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

11/12 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

12/12 Minutes of the Meeting Held on 2 October 2012

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

13/12 Consideration of the Standards Regime

Members received a report of the Monitoring Officer on The Standards Regime. It was reported that at its meeting on 18 July 2012, Council agreed the Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members and at its meeting on 23 May 2012, Council adopted the procedure for processing and considering complaints for breaches of the Code of Conduct.

Members noted that the report provided them with the opportunity to review the agreed Code of Conduct and the procedure for considering complaints.

Members discussed what classified as a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) and what did not classify and felt that there was still some ambiguity.

Members agreed that Members and Co-opted Members signatures should not appear on the DPI forms uploaded to Derby City Council's committee management information system (CMIS).

Members discussed how well the procedure for processing and considering complaints worked. Members agreed that there was some merit in the subject member having the right to consult one of the Independent Persons appointed by the Council. It was agreed that in future the Monitoring Officer should reinforce to the subject member the on-going support/consultation role of the Independent Person. Members also agreed that the Independent Person should make a written record of any conversations with the subject member, that both agree to be a correct record. Members felt that the subject member needed to be made aware that the Independent Person may be interviewed by the police if the complaint was referred to them.

Resolved:

- 1. to consider and comment upon the Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members;**
- 2. to consider and comment upon the procedure for considering complaints;**
- 3. to recommend that Members and Co-opted Members signatures do not appear on the DPI forms uploaded to Derby City Council's committee management information system (CMIS);**
- 4. to recommend that the Monitoring Officer reinforces the on-going support/consultation role of the Independent Person at paragraph 2 (b) of the procedure for considering complaints;**
- 5. to recommend the addition of the following at paragraph 2 (b), "The Independent Person shall make a written record of any conversations with the subject member, that both agree to be a correct record"; and**
- 6. to recommend that the Monitoring Officer makes the subject member aware that the Independent Person at paragraph 2 (b) may be interviewed by the police if the complaint is referred to them.**

14/12 Exclusion of Press and Public

Resolved to exclude the press and public during consideration of minute 08/12 under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that it involved 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 outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

15/12 Summary of Progress of Complaints

The committee considered a report which summarised the progress and outcomes of the member complaints that were received in the 2011/12 municipal year and carried over to 2012/13 and complaints received in 2012/13.

Resolved to note the report.

MINUTES END