

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE
9 SEPTEMBER 2011**

Present: Mr P Sunderland (Chair)
Mr P McCrea and Ms D Reid
Councillors Jackson, Skelton and Wood
Philip O'Brien – Head of Democratic Services

11/11 Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Mr P Purnell.

12/11 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no Late Items.

13/11 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

14/11 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 May 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

15/11 Future Arrangements to Preserve Ethical Standards

The Committee considered and commented on a Discussion Note on future arrangements to preserve ethical standards, given that the Localism Bill provides for the abolition of the Standards Board for England and removal of the statutory requirement for a Standards Committee and Code of Conduct.

There was some discussion about how and why ethical standards should be preserved. It was felt that this could be an opportunity to streamline the complaints process. It was recognised that the Standards Committee should be retained. The importance of having a majority of independent members on the Committee was also recognised. It was considered that the Committee and the Monitoring Officer could create a code of conduct and a system that worked locally.

Resolved that a local Standards Committee and Code of Conduct should be retained in the event that the Localism Bill becomes law and the present statutory Standards arrangements are abolished.

16/11 Safeguarding Children: Summary of Roles and Responsibilities

The Committee considered and commented on the Safeguarding Children: Summary of Roles and Responsibilities report, that had been approved by Council Cabinet.

There was some discussion about why it was necessary for Councillors to undertake awareness training. It was recognised that Councillors should understand their role as corporate parents. It was felt that the training should be mandatory for all Councillors and that it should also be ongoing.

Resolved to support the recommendation that all Councillors should undertake mandatory awareness training on safeguarding and corporate parenting provided by senior officers from the Children and Young Peoples Directorate.

MINUTES END