

Time Commenced – 10.00am
Time Finished – 11.01am

STANDARDS COMMITTEE 27 MAY 2011

Present: Mr P Sunderland (Chair)
Councillors Jackson and Wood
Mr P McCrea, Mr P Purnell and Ms D Reid

01/11 Appointment of Chair

Resolved to appoint Mr Philip Sunderland as Chair for the 2011/12 Municipal Year.

02/11 Appointment of Vice Chair

Resolved to appoint Ms Dionne Reid as Vice Chair for the 2011/12 Municipal Year.

03/11 Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Skelton.

04/11 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no Late Items.

05/11 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

06/11 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to the amendment of “will” in paragraph C of Minute 36/10 to “well”.

07/11 Standards Annual Report 2010/11

The Committee considered and commented on a draft version of the Standards Annual Report for the 2010/11 Municipal Year, which was to be amended before being presented to Full Council on 13 July 2011. The report detailed the role of the Committee, its functions and a summary of the complaints the Committee had considered over the Municipal Year.

Resolved to amend the report in accordance with comments made by Members of the Committee

08/11 Training

The Assistant Director – Democratic Services reported that induction and ethical training for new Members had been provided as part of the Induction Day and had been well received. Declaration of Interest forms had also been completed. He also noted that the Council was now a signatory of the East Midlands Members Development Charter and as such each Member would have a one-to-one meeting with the Head of Democratic Services in order to design individual personal development plans. Feedback on training was invited from Members, who commented that a large volume of information was communicated at training events and that it would be helpful to present this in different formats, such as videos or DVDs, where Councillors could take the information away and absorb it.

The Committee considered the abolition of the Code of Conduct for Councillors proposed by the Localism Bill. It was felt that there was still a need for the continued development of Members and a code of conduct as this added legitimacy to the role of Councillors. Members also considered the guidance issued to candidates for election to the Council.

Resolved:

- 1. To note the update;**
- 2. To ask the Assistant Director – Democratic Services to circulate the guidance for new candidates to members of the Committee for comment**

09/11 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved to exclude the press and public during consideration of Minutes 45/09 under Regulation 8(6) of the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 and under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 7(C) of Schedule 12A of the Act and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

10/11 Summary of Progress with Member Complaints

The Committee considered a report setting out details of the progress and outcome of the Member complaints received in the 2010/11 municipal year.

Resolved to note the report.

Chair of the next ensuing meeting
at which these minutes were signed