

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Thursday, 17th March 2016.

PRESENT – *Councillor M. Lee, (in the Chair), S. Brookfield, T Evans, J Gunn, J. Rigby, M. Lee, P. Fletcher and T. Hussain.*

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE- *Sian Roxborough, Ben Aspinall and Paul Conlon.*

RESOLUTIONS

1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting; apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Maxfield, Gunn, G. Carus and Rehman.

2 Minutes of the Meeting of this Committee held on 22nd October 2015

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd October 2015 be received and signed as a correct record.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Appointment of Independent Members to the Standards Committee.

(During consideration of the following item the two independent members left the room and took no part in the meeting)

The Committee considered options for the appointment of Independent members of the standards Committee for a period of four years. The committee considered a number of options following which it was-

Resolved- That it be recommended to the meeting of the Annual Council to keep the existing independent Members arrangements to continue for a second term of four years, with two terms being the maximum for all independent members.

(Both Independent Members were invited back into the meeting and informed of the decision of the committee and expressed their desire to continue in the role of Independent member.)

5. Appointment of Independent Person.

The Committee received a report of the Monitoring Officer seeking approval for the recruitment and appointment of the Independent Person for Standards, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.

Resolved- That the Committee receive the report and authorise the Monitoring Officer to advertise for and recruit a new Independent Person and recommend to the Annual Council, their appointment at the Annual Council, their appointment at the meeting in May 2016.

6. 5th May Elections and 23rd June European Elections Referendum 2016 Pre- Election Restriction Period.

The Committee received a report informing Members of the pre-elections restrictions relating to the upcoming Lancashire Police Crime Commissioner, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, Darwen Town Council and Parish Elections on 5th May 2016 and the European referendum on 23rd June 2016.

Resolved- That the report and the information for Members be noted and that information be forwarded to all Members of the Council, Parish Councillors and Candidates and agents in the forthcoming elections.

10. Dual Hatted Members

The Committee received a report of the monitoring officer outlining the issues relating to dual hatted members. Dual hatted members are councillors who serve on two or more authorities ie a Borough Councillor and a Parish Councillor. The issue had been highlighted as an issue relevant to the code of conduct due to the confusion that could arise with member's responsibilities.

Resolved- that the Committee note the report and request that Monitoring Officer provide refresher guidance and training to relevant members.

11. Disclosure of Interests.

The Committee received a report of the Monitoring Officer requesting members to consider if the current advice to members contained in the Councils constitution needed updating or enhancing.

Resolved- that the report of the Monitoring officer be noted and the guidance contained within the constitution be reissued to members following the elections in May and that this form part of induction training.

12 Dates for meetings of the Standards Committee

Resolved- It was noted that the Committee meet on the following dates in the municipal year 2016/17

6th July 2016, 20th October 2016, 5th January 2017 and 16th March 2017.

Signed.....

Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were signed

Date.....