

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, 8TH FEBRUARY 2017

PRESENT- *Councillor V. McGurk (in the Chair), Councilors, Akhtar P, Brookfield, Gunn, McFall, Slater Julie, and Q Mahmood, Fletcher P, Hussain T, and Wild D.*

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE- *David Fairclough, Alan Eastwood, Asad Laher and Paul Conlon.*

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and received apologies from Councilors Maxfield and Zamir Khan.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 6th July and 7th December 2016

The minutes of the meetings held on 6th July and 7th December 2016 were submitted.

RESOLVED- That the minutes of the meetings held on 6th July and 7th December 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Member Training Update

The Committee received a report of the Monitoring Officer providing an update on the 2016/17 Member Training Programme and requesting members of the committee to consider the extension of Mandatory attendance for Members at certain training events.

Members discussed the sanctions that could be applied if a Member chose not to attend training that was defined as mandatory and the sanctions that existed for the existing mandatory training for Planning and Licensing committees that meant that Members who had not received the training could not sit on meetings of the committee. The limited measures that could be applied were outlined including reporting to group leaders, and reporting to full Council meetings and Members discussed the ways that Councilors could be encouraged to attend.

RESOLVED-

1. That the update report on this year's member training programme be noted;

2. That a list of training programmes that Members feel essential be drawn up with the assistance of the Executive Members and that group leaders be encouraged to ensure that this be considered when making annual appointments; and

3. That the Monitoring Officer be requested to produce a report to this committee in March each year on the attendance of members at training events.

5. Call in Procedure and Member Training

The Committee considered a report by the Monitoring Officer on the procedure related to call-ins. The Committee were informed that the recent meetings of the Call- in Committees had highlighted a need for further Member training to ensure that the maximum value could be gained from the process and that all Members involved understood the processes and procedures that were followed and outcomes.

RESOLVED-

1. That training for training on call-in process and procedure be made available to all members of the Council and where practicable Members should have attended the training prior to participating in a call in; and

2. that a clear overview of the procedural rules for a call-in be made publicly available both in advance of and at call-in meetings.

6. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED- that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business as the information to be considered contains exempt information relating to an individual and is exempt by virtue of section 12A local Government Act 1972.

7. Update – Member Complaint and Investigation Report

The Committee considered a report of the Monitoring Officer relating to a complaint made against a Councillor for an alleged breach of the code of conduct and a report of findings of the Investigating Officer undertaken on behalf of the Monitoring Officer.

Members discussed the issues relating to this alleged breach and the investigations that had taken place to date. The issues related to interpretations of the actions as set out in the report. The options available to the Committee were outlined and the outcomes that could lead from this were also discussed.

RESOLVED-

1. That the Update report on the findings of the Investigation Report be noted;
2. That the Monitoring Officer be requested to report to the next meeting of the Committee on the Process and Procedure to be followed at a meeting of the Hearing Panel of the Standards Committee; and
3. That the Monitoring Officer be requested to convene a Hearing Panel of this Committee to consider and pursue the complaint and consider the alleged breach of the Code of Conduct as detailed in the investigation Report in relation to the complaint

8. Date of the Next Meeting

RESOLVED- It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on 15th March 2017, rather than 16th March 2017.

Signed.....

Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were signed

Date.....