

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
6th July 2017

PRESENT – Councillors *Fazal (Chair), Gunn, Z. Khan, Lee, McGurk and Julie Slater*

Independent Members – Paul Fletcher and Alan Eastwood

Also Present –

David Fairclough	Monitoring Officer
Asad Laher	Legal Advisor
Phil Llewellyn	Governance and Democratic Services
Rebekah Mottershead	Governance and Democratic Services

RESOLUTIONS

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Municipal Year of the Standards Committee. Apologies were received from Cllrs Brookfield and McFall and from Tassadaq Hussain.

RESOLVED –

That the apologies be noted

2. Minutes of the meeting held on the 15th March 2017

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 15th March 2017 be agreed as a correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest in items on this Agenda

There were no declarations of interest received.

4. Member Training Update to the Standards Committee

The Chair welcomed the Monitoring Officer to the meeting and invited him to take Members through his report on the Member Training Programme for the 2017/18 Municipal year.

Members were reminded that following the Committee's Recommendation to increase the level of Member Training and Development, a full training programme had been devised this year for the Committee's approval.

The Committee approved training schedule for the 2017/18 Municipal Year and noted that there had been good attendance levels recorded to date on the

several courses that had taken place so far. The Committee was advised that there would also be further updates to the e-learning portal to allow Members to access a wider range of courses in increasingly convenient methods.

The Monitoring Officer drew Members attention to upcoming mandatory sessions on safeguarding and data protection, and to the briefing on the budget and benefit reforms.

The Committee commended the Member Training Programme and thanked the Monitoring Officer for his report and attendance.

RESOLVED –

That the Member Training Programme for the 2017/18 be endorsed and approved by the Committee.

5. Complaints to the Standards Committee

The Chair invited the Monitoring Officer to provide an update on the complaints received regarding Members conduct since the last meeting of the Committee.

The Monitoring Officer took the Committee through his report on the current complaints being investigated, drawing their attention to key facts and concerns. It was noted that there had been three complaints investigated, the resolutions for which were outlined in the report.

A detailed discussion took place around the reasoning for the Independent Person’s determinations. It was noted that two of the complaints had reached resolutions and there was one currently outstanding at this time as outlined within the report.

Members heard that at the rise of this meeting, a complaints panel would convene to further investigate the alleged breach of the Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED –

1. That the outcome of the standards hearing be reported to Full Council
2. That the complaints to the Monitoring Officer be noted

Signed.....

Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were signed

Date.....