

REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE.

Councillors Saima Afzal

PORTFOLIO COORDINATING

DIRECTOR: David Fairclough

This report updates the Council Forum on the work of the Standards Committee since the meeting of the Policy Council in December 2018.

Review of DBS Procedures for Councillors

The Committee were informed in October that the Government had consulted on the proposals to update the disqualification criteria for Councillors and Mayors. The Committee had agreed to add this issue to their work programme and also to review the Council's policy on the application of the Disclosures and Barring provisions for Councillors.

The Committee looked at the current practice which was to risk assess specific Councillor roles where they may have access or personal data relating to children or vulnerable adults, such as the Executive Member for Children Young People and Education. Recommendations for an update of the wider Councillor DBS Policy will be made to the March Council Forum.

Protocol on Members/ Officer Relations.

The Committee considered a review of the protocol on the Member/Officer Relations. The Protocol had been considered by the Committee previously in 2015 and in line with good practice, a periodic review had been identified in the Committees work programme. The Committee reviewed the aims and objectives of the protocol and the views of members. The Committee supported the continuation of the current protocol with a small recommended addition which will be presented to the March Council Forum.

North Turton Parish Council-Request for Dispensation.

The Committee agreed to grant a dispensation to three members of the North Turton Parish Council for a period of 4 years to enable them to vote on issues affecting the Barlow Institute. The dispensation will allow the full Parish Council to consider and vote on issues affecting the institute whereas without the dispensation only four members would have been eligible to consider relevant matters.

Complaints Update.

The Committee received an update on the complaints received under the Code of Conduct for Members. Members noted that there were no active complaints being processed at the present time.

Councillor Saima Afzal
Chair of Standards Committee

January 2019