

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
14th January 2019

PRESENT – Councillor Saima Afzal (Chair)
Councillor Neil Slater (Vice Chair)
Councillor Vicky McGurk
Councillor Talseem Fazal
Councillor Julie Gunn
Councillor Naushad Surve
Councillor Sylvia Liddle

Independent Member - Tassadaq Hussain

Also Present – David Fairclough, Monitoring Officer
Alan Eastwood, Independent Person
Asad Laher, Head of Governance
Paul Conlon, Democratic Services

RESOLUTIONS

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from, Paul Fletcher, Independent Member and Councillors Groves.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on the 25th October 2018

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 25th October 2018 be agreed as a correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest in items on this Agenda

Parish Councillor, Daniel Wild declared an interest in the item relating to the request for a dispensation received from the North Turton Parish Council.

4. Review of DBS Procedures For Councillors.

The Committee received a report outlining the current requirements relating to Disclosure and Baring Service Checks 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 Baring 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. The Committee looked at the role of Councillors in the community which brought them in to contact with vulnerable members of the public, young people and give them access to information that was sensitive and confidential. Members discussed the possibility of basic disclosures being introduced for all Councillors and that members should be asked to consider undertaking these on election. Members were informed that this would have to be voluntary and that there would be a cost in having the checks. Members discussed the payment issue and who should be responsible for this. Members were also reminded that DBS checks were now portable and that checks made in one capacity such as School Governor would now be acceptable in other roles. The Monitoring Officer would draft recommendations for an update of the wider Councillor DBS Policy for consideration at the March Council Forum.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted and that the Monitoring Officer be requested to report back with recommendations to the meeting of the Council Forum in March

5. **Member Officer Protocols**

The Committee received a report reviewing the Member/Officer Protocols that had last been reviewed by the Committee in January 2015. The Committee had agreed that they would periodically review protocols as part of their work programmes. Members discussed the need to spell out implicitly how actions could breach the code. Members felt that those bound by the code were adults and should be aware of their actions and consequences thereof. The guidance when agreed would be circulated to all members and incorporated in the next update of the constitution.

RESOLVED- That the review of the Code of Conduct for Member/Officers be approved and incorporated into the update of the constitution..

6. **Dispensation Request from North Turton Parish Council**
(Daniel Wild, left the room for consideration of the following item)

The Committee considered a request received from North Turton Parish Council for a dispensation for three members of the Parish Council who were trustees of the Barlow Charity to enable them to vote on and discuss issues at meetings of the Parish Council. The Committee were informed that a dispensation had previously been granted to the members concerned. The Committee discussed the issues relating to the request and the need for the continued dispensation.

RESOLVED- That the request for a dispensation for Three Members of the Parish Council sitting on the Barlow Charity be approved.

6. Complaints Update to the Standards Committee

Members received an update on complaints received regarding Members conduct under the arrangements for dealing with complaints about the Code of Conduct for Members. The Committee were informed that no active complaints were being pursued at present. The Committee would continue to be updated at each meeting on the progress of complaints.

RESOLVED – That the update report be noted.

Signed.....

Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were signed

Date.....