

## STANDARDS COMMITTEE

6.10 P.M.

19TH JANUARY 2017

**PRESENT:-** Councillors Oscar Thynne (Chairman), Jon Barry, Colin Hartley, Roger Mace and Peter Yates

Apologies for Absence

Councillors Roger Sherlock and David Whitaker

Officers in attendance:-

Debbie Chambers	Monitoring Officer and Democratic Services Manager
Liz Bateson	Principal Democratic Support Officer

### 1 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Chairman requested nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee for the 2016/17 municipal year.

It was proposed by Councillor Yates and seconded by Councillor Barry that Councillor Mace be appointed to the position, and, there being no further nominations, the Chairman declared the proposal to be carried.

***Resolved:***

- (1) That Councillor Mace be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee for the 2016/17 municipal year.

### 2 MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 January 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

### 3 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There were no items of urgent business.

### 4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Mace and Hartley declared an interest in item 8 on the agenda, as members of the Licensing Regulatory Committee referred to in the exempt appendix.

## 5 REVIEW OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEALING WITH ALLEGATIONS OF A BREACH OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

The Monitoring Officer presented a report to enable the Committee to consider changes to the current arrangements for dealing with allegations against Members of a breach of the Code of Conduct, in light of comments made during the assessment process for a recent complaint. The proposed changes related to proportionality and time lapses.

The Committee agreed not to change the written regulations but to make use of the opportunity of dealing with issues by email or via telephone rather than always requiring more time consuming and costlier face to face meetings. This would also enable the Independent Person and Chairman/Vice-Chairman to determine the initial importance or triviality of any allegation rather than the Monitoring Officer.

Consideration was then given to a possible time lapse. After discussion it was agreed not to propose a time lapse limit as this removed the flexibility which would be necessary if an important allegation came to light after the expiry of any agreed time scale.

### ***Resolved:***

- (1) That the Committee agrees not to change the current arrangements for dealing with allegations against Members of a breach of the Code of Conduct but agrees that greater use be made of email and telephone, rather than face to face meetings between the Monitoring Officer, Independent Person and Chairman/Vice-Chairman, when initially determining the importance or triviality of an allegation.

## 6 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

That, in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it could involve the possible disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of that Act.

## 7 SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS

The Monitoring Officer presented a report which contained a summary of code of conduct complaints which had been received or concluded since the last meeting.

The Monitoring Officer was requested to ascertain whether and/or how other local authorities defined bullying and report back to a future meeting.

It was agreed that that the Monitoring Officer would share the exempt findings of the independent investigation into complaint 15/16 with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to determine whether it might provide a learning opportunity for the Licensing Regulatory Committee.

### ***Resolved:***

- (1) That the report be noted.

- (2) That the Monitoring Office report back on the definition of 'bullying' to a future meeting.
- (3) That the Monitoring Officer share the exempt findings of the independent investigation into complaint 15/16 with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

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Chairman

(The meeting ended at 6.40 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact  
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