

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

6.10 P.M.

7TH JUNE 2018

PRESENT:- Councillors Tracy Brown (Chairman), Jon Barry, Nathan Burns, Nigel Goodrich (substitute for Peter Yates), Colin Hartley and David Whitaker and Peter Williamson (substitute for Roger Mace)

Apologies for Absence

Councillors Roger Mace and Peter Yates

Officers in attendance:-

David Brown	Interim Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer
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 2018/19 municipal year.

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

Resolved:

- (1) That Councillor Barry be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee for the 2018/19 municipal year.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2018 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

There were no declarations of interest.

5 LGA RESPONSE TO THE REVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ETHICAL STANDARDS

The Monitoring Officer presented a report that informed the Committee of the response of the LGA to a recent consultation undertaken by the Committee on Standards in Public Life. The consultation was with regard to a Review of Local Government Ethical Standards. The Monitoring Officer explained that the main issues where proposals

would be developed were with regard to the impact of town and parish council complaints on principal councils, investigations of bullying and harassment of councillors on social media with the Police Commissioner appointment now perceived as a political appointment, and whether the role of the independent person required strengthening. The Monitoring Officer responded to questions and advised the Committee that any developments would be reported to a future meeting.

Resolved:

- (1) That the report be noted.

6 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

That, in accordance with Section 110A(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 UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT

The Monitoring Office presented a report, which advised the Committee about the progress of current complaints and any other code of conduct complaints received since the last report in January 2018. The Monitoring Officer responded to a number of questions. The Committee agreed that the Constitutional Working Group be requested to consider the press protocol regarding code of conduct breaches as part of its' consideration of the review of the constitution.

Resolved:

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That the Constitutional Working Group be requested to consider the press protocol regarding code of conduct breaches as part of its' consideration of the review of the constitution.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 6.57 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
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