



Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Held: TUESDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2016 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Senior (Chair)
Councillor Shelton (Vice Chair)

Councillor Sood

Also present:

Ms Fiona Barber	Independent Member
Mr Mike Galvin	Independent Member
Ms Jayne Kelly	Independent Member
Ms Alison Lockley	Independent Member
Mr Simon Smith	Independent Member
Mr Mick Edwards	Independent Person
Mr David Lindley	Independent Person

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Palmer (Deputy City Mayor).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any interests they might have in the business to be discussed. No such declarations were made.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the Committee and Standards Advisory Board were noted.

4. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

The current membership of the Committee was noted as follows:-

Councillors:

Chair: Councillor Senior
Vice Chair: Councillor Shelton
Councillor Palmer
Councillor Sood

Independent Members:

Ms Fiona Barber
Mr Mike Galvin
Ms Jayne Kelly
Ms Alison Lockley
Mr Simon Smith

Standing Invitees:

Mr Michael Edwards (Independent Person)
Mr David Lindley (Independent Person)

5. DATES OF MEETINGS

The Monitoring Officer reported that the Annual Meeting of Council on 19 May 2016 had agreed that the date of the next Committee meeting would be Tuesday 21 March 2017.

6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee, held on 14 October 2015 be confirmed as a correct record.

7. ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

The Monitoring Officer submitted the Draft Annual Report of the Standards Committee July 2015 - June 2016 which provided an analysis of cases referred.

Members were asked to note the report and make any amendments prior to it being submitted to the Council.

The Monitoring Officer commented that the report followed the format of previous reports. He stated that none of the complaints received during the period of the report had been referred for an independent investigation. It was noted that nine of the thirteen complaints were not treated as valid complaints for the reasons stated in the report.

Following a question from a member of the Committee, the Monitoring Officer commented that none of the complaints received had given rise to any

organisational learning issues that needed to be brought to the attention of members or officers.

Mr Lindley, Independent Person, referred to the time taken to deal with the complaints and commented how speedily complaints were now being considered under the current arrangements compared to the previous standards' regime.

The Chair asked that where an offer of reparation was made, then this should be recorded in the report.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and noted and that the Monitoring Officer include commentary in the report in instances where an offer of reparation is offered and subsequently made.

8. COMPLAINT AGAINST COUNCILLORS - UPDATE

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report giving feedback on complaints against Councillors reviewed and/or determined from 18 June 2016 to 14 November 2016 and updating the Committee on progress with outstanding complaints against Councillors.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

9. WORK PROGRAMME

Members were asked to consider items which they would wish to see on the Work Programme for the Committee.

It was suggested that the Committee could receive a report where organisational learning issues had been identified in dealing with complaints and what action had been taken afterwards.

The Monitoring Officer offered to review the process for submitting the Annual Corporate Governance Statement to the Audit and Risk Committee to see it whether it should be considered by the Committee .

The Committee had previously considered an overview of complaints received across the Council and members asked that this be considered in the future.

The Monitoring Officer also commented that a number of minor amendments had been made to the Code of Conduct and the revised Code would be submitted to the March meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the items discussed above be added to the Committee's Work Programme.

10. FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Chair invited Members to discuss arrangements for future meetings of the Committee. The Chair commented that whilst she was satisfied that arrangements were in place to promote and maintain standards of behaviour by Elected Members, she was conscious that a number of meetings of the Committee had been cancelled due to lack of business to be considered. These meetings had been since the standards regime was changed in 2012, which had changed the workload of the Committee.

The Chair suggested that the time was appropriate to review the way in which the Committee met and operated and suggested that the Monitoring Officer submit a report to the next meeting of the Committee. The Chair also questioned whether the Committee required a permanent Chair with an allowance or whether a member of the Committee could be appointed Chair at each meeting.

The Monitoring Officer commented that it would be advisable to have at least one scheduled meeting per year and other meetings arranged on an ad hoc basis. He would review the arrangements in the light of legislative changes and report back to the next meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the Monitoring Officer submit a report on future arrangements for meetings of the Committee.

11. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of business to be considered.

12. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.13pm.