

Minutes of the Meeting of the STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Held: WEDNESDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2015 at 5:30 pm

PRESENT:

Councillor Senior (Chair)
Councillor Shelton (Vice Chair)

Also present:

Ms Fiona Barber Independent Member
Mr Desmond Henderson Independent Member
Mr Stephen Purser Independent Member
Mr David Lindley Independent Person
Ms Caroline Roberts Independent Person

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Palmer, Councillor Sood and Ms Amanda Fitchett.

12. ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2015

The Monitoring Officer submitted the Draft Annual Report of the Standards Committee July 2013 - June 2015 which provided an analysis of cases referred.

Members were asked to note the draft report and make any amendments.

The Monitoring Officer stated that the report covered a two year period because after the Committee had made comments upon the 2013/14 report there had not been a scheduled Council meeting to consider it before the restrictions on meetings during the pre-election period prior to the elections in May 2015 had taken effect.

MINUTE EXTRACT

The Monitoring Officer stated that monitoring data was now captured when complaints were submitted through the on-line forms on the website and he felt that qualitative data would be available for the 2015/16 report.

The Committee made the following observations and comments:-

- a) Delete the reference to the 'second annual report' in paragraph 1.1 of the report.
- b) It would be helpful to include a note on Complaint 2013/11 to explain the reason for the review taking 170 days.
- c) It would be helpful in future to incorporate a follow up procedure for those involved in complaints to comment upon the process.
- d) More emphasis could be made in relation to the 45 out of 53 councillors who had acted well and had not been the subject of a complaint. It would also be useful to include comparisons with other similar authorities to provide a benchmark for the Council's own performance.

RESOLVED:

That the draft report be received and that the Committee's comments be incorporated into the report and that the final report be submitted to the January meeting of the Committee for approval.