



Leicester
City Council

MINUTE EXTRACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Held: TUESDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2017 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Byrne (Chair)
Councillor Shelton (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Dr Moore

Also present:

Ms Fiona Barber	Independent Member
Mr Mike Galvin	Independent Member
Ms Jayne Kelly	Independent Member
Mr Alison Lockley	Independent Person

* * * * *

15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rae Bhatia, Mr Simon Smith, Mr Michael Edwards and Mr David Lindley.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

18. BI-ANNUAL REPORT (2015-2017) OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

The Monitoring Officer presented the draft Bi-Annual Report on complaints received for the period July 2015 to June 2017.

It was noted that, although ten referrals had been made to the Monitoring Officer in 2015/16, only four of these were held to be valid complaints. In 2016/17, 25 referrals had been made, with 11 being held to be valid complaints. Of the 11, five were complaints from Councillors about other Councillors arising from one Council meeting.

The Monitoring Officer advised the Committee that:

- A complaint could not be made against all of the Members of the Council at once;
- Complaints seeking resolution of operational matters, (such as Ward issues), could not be processed as Member misconduct complaints;
- Some complaints about Member misconduct related to times when an elected Member was not acting as such at the time complained of. For example, during the canvassing period of an election, the Member could have been acting on behalf of a political party, not as a Councillor; and
- The number of complaints made relating to activities on social media was increasing and it was anticipated that this trend would continue. Councillors therefore needed to be careful to ensure that there was no confusion about when they were using social media as a Councillor, or in another capacity, such as a personal one, or as a representative of a political party.

RESOLVED:

That Bi-Annual Report of the Standards Committee July 2015 – June 2017 be welcomed and endorsed.