

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2018 commencing at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllr. Gaywood (Chairman)

Cllr. Ball (Vice Chairman)

Cllrs. McGarvey and Clark

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Bosley and McGregor

Cllr. Mrs Morris was also present

4. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the Standards Committee held on 18 October 2017 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

5. Declarations of interest

There were no additional declarations of interest.

6. Monitoring Officer's Annual Report

The Monitoring Officer presented the thirteenth Annual Report, which set out the role of the Monitoring Officer and provided an overview of the work of the Monitoring Officer, the Standards Committee and the general governance arrangements of the Council during 2017.

The Monitoring Officer advised that his report included the annual letter from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman annual review letter and which set out that 11 complaints and enquiries had been received and none were upheld. The report also included the Office of Surveillance Commissioners Inspection report which was carried out by remote inspection.

Members were advised that seven complaints were received between January and December 2017. Two complaints failed the initial intake test, two resulted in a decision to take no further action after assessment. One was referred for informal resolution and two were ongoing. In comparison there were four complains received during 2016.

Members discussed and raised questions in regards to the complaints listed. The Monitoring Officer advised that he would look into the points raised.

Upon discussion the Monitoring Officer and Independent Person confirmed to the meeting that they had not released any confidential documents.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That it be recommended to Council that the report be noted.

7. Arrangements for dealing with Code of Conduct complaints.

The Monitoring Officer presented a report which summarised the arrangements for dealing with Code of Conduct Complaints. Members discussed changes that could be made to the current standards process which included response dates, target time periods for the complaints to be dealt with-in and the sharing of information between the complainer and the Subject Member. Members discussed the need for a written document to be produced to enable further discussion at a future meeting.

Resolved: That

a) the report be noted; and

b) an additional meeting be held on a Monday, prior to Annual Council.

THE MEETING WAS CONCLUDED AT 7.55 PM

CHAIRMAN