

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 14 MARCH 2016

PRESENT:- Councillor Michael Bray, Councillor Fay Howard, Councillor Teresa Page, Councillor Maureen Penny, Councillor Eric Shaw, Councillor Carol Shelley, Councillor Vera Tomlinson, Councillor David Wood (Chair), Mr Keith Strickland, Mr Trevor Davies, Mr David Dawson, Mr Richard Hailstone and Mike Compton.

24. Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded members of the need to declare known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting.

No declarations of interest were made.

25. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2016 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

26. Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

27. Exempt Items - Exclusion of Press and Public

Resolved - That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during the discussion of the matters referred to in the items listed below on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the respective paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Paragraph Nos.</u>	<u>Minute No.</u>
7	1 and 2	29

28. Ethical Framework Update

The Committee received a report from the Director of Law and Democratic Services providing an update on matters relating to the Ethical Framework, including:

- Dispensations.
- Code of Conduct Complaints.
- Member Training.
- The effective chairing of Licensing Panels.
- The effectiveness of changes made to the Council's arrangements for dealing with Code of Conduct complaints following review.

Resolved – (1) That the Ethical Framework update be noted.

(2) That, further to Minute 21(6), it be agreed that chairing skills training continues to

be offered to members in its current form and that particular issues relating to the chairing of Licensing Panels be addressed by means of a secondary, "follow-on" training session, specifically tailored to meet the needs of the Licensing function. (3) That the officers' view, that the revisions made to the arrangements for dealing with Code of Conduct complaints have been successful in addressing particular issues identified by the Standards Committee, be endorsed and that it be agreed that no further revision of the arrangements is required at this time. That the arrangements for dealing with Code of Conduct complaints be again reviewed by the Committee in 12 months' time, as part of its 2016/17 work programme.

29. Ethical Compliance Report

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Law and Democratic Services on ethical framework compliance matters. It was noted that, since the last meeting of the Committee, no whistleblowing cases or complaints of breaches of the member/officer relations protocol or the Member Code of Conduct had been received. The Director of Law and Democratic Services did, however, advise of the receipt of an, as yet, unregistered Code of Conduct complaint, the details of which were the subject of an ongoing dialogue between the Monitoring Officer and the complainant and on which matter the Committee's endorsement was sought on the measures being taken by the Monitoring Officer to resolve the particular issues preventing the matter being satisfactorily progressed and/or resolved.

Resolved – (1) That the Ethical Framework Compliance report be noted. (2) That, with regard to the unregistered Code of Conduct complaint, the complainant be advised that, having consulted the Standards Committee, unless the complainant can provide the necessary supporting information to allow the complaint to be progressed before the end of March 2016, the Monitoring Officer be authorised to confirm the complaint to be outside the scope of the Code of Conduct arrangements and that no further will be taken in respect of the complaint.