

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 4 JULY 2016

PRESENT:- Councillor David Wood (Chair), Councillors Kevin Parry (Deputy), Gary Sumner, Vera Tomlinson, Steve Weisinger, Fay Howard, Teresa Page, Joe Tray, Mr Trevor Davies, Mr Richard Hailstone and Mick Compton.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Colin Lovell, Mr Keith Strickland, Mr Paul Morris and Mr David Dawson.

1. Appointment of Vice-Chair

Resolved – That Councillor Steve Weisinger be Vice-Chair of the Standards Committee for the Municipal Year 2016/17.

2. 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.

3. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2016 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

4. Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

5. 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>
9	1 and 2	9

6. Standards Committee Annual Report

The Committee was asked to consider its Draft Annual Report 2015/16, which document provided a record of the work of the Standards Committee for the period June 2015 to May 2016.

Resolved – That the Draft Standards Committee Annual Report 2014/15 be agreed and that the Director of Law and Democratic Services be authorised to finalise the document for publication on the Council's website.

7. Annual Work Programme

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Law and Democratic Services inviting the Committee to agree its Work Programme for 2016/17.

Resolved – (1) That the Committee's draft Work Programme for 2016/17, as appended to the report, be agreed.

(2) That it be noted that the proposed work programme was sufficiently flexible to accommodate any unforeseen matters that might arise in relation to the Council's ethical framework.

(3) That the Monitoring Officer arrange a training session, possibly to precede a future meeting of the Committee, on the specific roles and functions of the Standards Committee in supporting and promoting the Council's ethical framework.

(4) That, subject to the outcome of the ongoing Community Governance Review, an update be made to the March 2017 meeting of the Committee on the proposed arrangements for the ethical standards training to be provided for new parish councillors.

8. 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.
- The appointment of Parish representatives on the Standards Committee.
- The Council's Draft Annual Governance Statement.
- Training – Induction Training and General Training issues.
- Councillors' Register of Interests.

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

(2) That the draft Annual Governance Statement, attached to the report at Appendix 2, be approved to be signed off by the Leader and Chief Executive in September 2016.

(3) That, in response to comments at the meeting by Councillor Steve Weisinger regarding the significant issues evidenced by the Audit Review of Isambard School, some of which remained to be fully resolved, the Head of Internal Audit be advised that the Committee suggests that this issue should not be removed from the Annual Governance Statement, as an area of focus, at this time.

(4) That the Committee welcomes Councillor Vera Tomlinson's very positive endorsement of the Education Transport Appeals member training event held on 30th June 2016.

9. Ethical Compliance Report

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Law and Democratic Services regarding the outcome of various ethical framework compliance matters, including the details of Whistleblowing cases, breaches of the member/officer relations protocol and Code of Conduct Complaints received since the last Committee and the outcome of any completed investigations in relation to these.

Resolved – That the Ethical Framework Compliance report be noted.