

## STANDARDS COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2016

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## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2016**

#### **Present:**

Councillor B Ridgway ..... Chair

Councillor S Boyle

“ G Butler

“ S Peters

Councillor K Rouse

“ R Welton

Councillor Mrs D Ward - Parish Council Representative

Councillor Mrs D Ruff - Parish Council Representative

#### **Also Present:**

Sarah Sternberg - Solicitor to the Council and Assistant Director of Governance & Monitoring Officer

Adele Wylie - Legal Team Manager (Contentious) (Solicitor) & Deputy Monitoring Officer

Sarah Cottam - Governance Officer

#### **311 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Powell and Jane Foley, Assistant Director – Customer Service and Improvement.

#### **312 Declarations of Interest**

Members were requested to declare the existence and nature of any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or other interests, not already on their register of interests, in any item on the agenda and withdraw from the meeting at the appropriate time.

There were no interests declared at the meeting.

#### **313 Minutes of Last Meeting**

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 20 April 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### **314 Change of Order of Agenda Items**

The Chair, with the consent with Members of the Committee, agreed to change the order of the agenda as set out within the Minutes.

**315 The Local Government Ombudsman Annual Review Letter**

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Director – Customer Service and Improvement, on the Annual Review Letter of the Local Government Ombudsman for the Authority (LGO).

The Council had received its annual review letter from the Local Government Ombudsman on 21 July 2016. It contained information on how many complaints and enquiries had been referred to the Local Government Ombudsman and how many complaints were upheld or referred back for local resolution. There were 19 complaints and enquiries received in total by the Local Government Ombudsman and this was set out in an appendix to the report. There were 16 decisions made, 7 complaints were referred back for local resolution, 6 closed after initial enquiries, 1 incomplete or invalid and 2 not upheld. It was advised that there were 3 complaints ongoing which would be included within the 2016/17 reports.

**RESOLVED** – That the Standards Committee considered the Annual Review letter of the Local Government Ombudsman and noted the outcomes as detailed in the report.

(Assistant Director - Customer Service and Improvement)

**316 Public Interest Report – Derby City Council**

The Committee considered a report of the Solicitor to the Council and Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer. The purpose of the report was to inform Members of the issues raised in the Derby City Council Public Interest report by Grant Thornton.

The report, which was issued in June this year, raised some serious governance issues for Derby City Council. However, these were historic issues, there now being new political and management leadership in place.

The Committee were advised that the Strategic Alliance Management Team had seen the report but had no comments.

The Solicitor to the Council and Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer outlined the key issues arising from the report. Members discussed the issues raised in Derby City and raised points around North East Derbyshire's Officer Delegation Scheme. The Committee hoped that the correct discussions were taking place regarding delegated decisions and it was ensured the relevant Portfolio Holder was consulted over any delegated decision taken.

The Committee requested details of the process of how delegated decisions were considered at North East Derbyshire.

**RESOLVED** – That:-

- (1) The Standards Committee considered the report, and;

- (2) Requests the Monitoring Officer supply the Committee with details of the process of how delegated decisions are considered at North East Derbyshire District Council.

(Solicitor to the Council and Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer)

**317 Work Programme 2016/17**

The Committee considered a report of the Solicitor to the Council and Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer, which advised the Committee of its Work Programme for 2016/2017.

Members were advised of the background to the Work Programme and the fact that this was a live and changing document.

**RESOLVED** – That the 2016/17 Work Programme, attached as an appendix to the report, be noted.

(Governance Officer)

**318 Urgent Business**

Members were advised that there was no urgent business to be discussed in the public session at this meeting of the Standards Committee.

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