

Standards Committee

Meeting held at 6.00pm on Thursday, 29th June, 2017 in Cross Room, Civic Centre, West Paddock, Leyland PR25 1DH

Present:-

Cllr D Bird (Chairman), Mrs C A Chisholm, Cllr C Coulton, Cllr W Evans, Cllr J M Higgins, Cllr Mrs S Jones, Mr D Haley (Independent Person), Mr B Parsonage (Independent Person)

In Attendance:-

David Whelan (Legal Services Manager/Interim Monitoring Officer) and Dianne Scambler (Democratic and Member Services Officer)

Public Attendance:-

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Officers:-

None.

Other Councillors also present: Councillors K Martin and P Smith

Minute No.	Description/Resolution	Action By/Deadline
1	Welcome The Chair welcomed, David Haley to the Committee who had recently been appointed as an Independent Person and was attending his first meeting.	
2	Apologies for Absence An apology was received from Councillor Linda Woollard (Vice Chairman)	
3	Declarations of Interest None.	
4	Minutes of the Last Meeting Resolved (Unanimously) that: The minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2017 be approved a correct record for signing by the Chairman.	
5	Social Media Protocol - Update At its meeting in February, the Standards Committee approved a draft Protocol for the use of Social Media by elected Members. Shortly after that meeting, the Online Safeguarding Advisor to Lancashire's Safeguarding Children's Board had sight of the draft Protocol, and suggested it could be strengthened in a number of areas with safeguarding specifically in	

	<p>mind. The report, therefore updated members on the proposed changes and sought approval of the amended draft document.</p> <p>The Interim Monitoring Officer highlighted the changes and reported that the amended Protocol had been considered by the Council’s Governance Committee the previous evening. At that meeting, a suggestion had been made for all Councillors to sign up to a Charter that would give their commitment to the Protocol.</p> <p>In response to questions around image publication and the publication of personal contact details, the Committee’s attention was drawn to the General Legal Considerations in Section 4 of the Protocol. This gave general guidance around some of the issues under discussion, although there was an acceptance that the law needed to catch up with how social media can be used. It was also intended for the Protocol to be reviewed and amended when necessary.</p> <p>Training was considered key to the success of the Protocol and the Committee asked that all Elected Members be encouraged to attend. Both Independent Persons would also attend any training.</p> <p>RESOLVED (Unanimously):1. Approval of the draft Social Media Protocol for ALL Elected Members.2. That Council be recommended to approve the Social Media Protocol, following its approval by the Governance and Standards Committee.3. That Council be recommended to encourage ALL Elected Members to attend the training on effective and responsible use of social media.</p>	
6	<p>Standards Committee - Progress Report</p> <p>The Committee received an update on progress made on a number of issue since its last meeting that included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of a second Independent Person • Member/officer Protocol • Training and Development • LGA Corporate Peer Challenge (Peer Review) • Review of Terms of Reference for the committee • Review of Code of Conduct and associated guidance. <p>The new Terms of Reference and the Code of Conduct was appended to the report. Both documents were now easier to digest. Members noted the amount of work that had been undertaken to improve the documentation and thanked the officers concerned.</p> <p>RESOLVED (Unanimously): That the report be noted.</p>	
7	<p>Hearing and Investigation Procedure for Dealing with Complaints</p>	

	<p>The Committee received a revised Hearing and Investigation procedure for dealing with complaints that had been developed following its review. The Interim Monitoring Officer outlined the processes and drew the Committee's attention to an additional appendix, circulated at the meeting on the procedure that would be followed, should a Hearing Panel be convened to carry out an initial assessment of a complaint. It was clarified that Legal representation would be present at a Hearing Panel to assist members with their deliberations.</p> <p>Members discussed the required time expected for a Member to respond to the Monitoring Officer regarding a complaint and it was agreed to amend this to 7 working days. The Committee also discussed the arrangements for a Hearing Panel and how vexatious complaints would be handled.</p> <p>RESOLVED (Unanimously): Approval of the revised Hearing and Investigation Procedure and associated documentation appended to the report.</p>	
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The meeting ended at 6.46pm.

..... Chairman

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