

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

5 July 2017

Present – Councillors Ireton (Chairman), Mason, Mercer, Solloway and Whitaker.
Independent Person (non-voting): John Boumphrey

Officers – Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) and Committee Administrator.

Apologies for absence were received from Independent Persons Peter Charlesworth and Roger Millin.

Start: 7pm

Finish: 7:55pm

The minutes of the Committee's meeting held on 15th March 2017 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Minutes for Report

STN.322

WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2017/18

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) submitted a report proposing a programme of work for the Committee for the 2017/18 municipal year.

Two items from the 2016/17 work programme were incomplete and would be carried forward to the 2017/18 programme. These were the Whistleblowing Policy and Planning Code of Practice.

Resolved – (1) That, the work of the Committee during 2016/17 is noted.

(2) That, the Committee's forward work programme for 2017/18 include the following areas of work:

- Whistleblowing Policy
- Planning Code of Practice
- Training for Members
- Audit of Parish Councils Code of Conduct and Register of Interests
- Equalities and Diversity
- Hearings Training for Standards Committee Members
- Review of the Code of Conduct to examine the inclusion of an offence of bringing the Council into disrepute

STN.323

WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) submitted a report asking Members to consider and comment on a draft Whistleblowing Policy which included content suggested by the Committee at its meeting on 15th March 2017.

Resolved – That the draft Whistleblowing Policy be approved as basis for consultation and that comments and suggested revisions be reported to the next meeting.

STN.324

PROBITY IN PLANNING

The Deputy Monitoring Officer submitted a report updating Members on the progress made in relation to the Craven District Council 'Planning Good Practice for Members Guidance' and seeking approval for consultation on the Guidance.

The Deputy Monitoring officer had received a suggestion that consideration be given as to whether 'lobbying' should be reported at Planning Committee. Although lobbying is covered in the Guidance at present there is no requirement that it is reported to Planning Committee.

Resolved – (1) The Guidance be approved for the purposes of consultation.

(2) The Guidance be amended to include a requirement that Members report lobbying (for or against) an application/enforcement at Planning Committee.

(3) The consultation period be four weeks.

STN.325

MONITORING REPORT

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) submitted a report updating Members on the Code of Conduct complaints received and the status of existing complaints since the last report to Committee on the 15th March 2017.

Resolved – That, the monitoring report is noted.

STN.326

ELECTION OF PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) reported on the process for appointing up to four non-voting parish representatives to the Standards Committee

Resolved – (1) That parish councils be invited to submit nominations for parish representatives.

(2) That if more than four nominations are received a ballot of parish councils be held to select the four parish representatives who will go forward for confirmation by the Council.

STN.327

MEETINGS : START TIME

The Committee were asked to agree the normal start-time for it's meetings for the remainder of the current municipal year.

Resolved – That, for the remainder of the current municipal year, this Committee's meetings commence at 7pm.

Chairman