

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

5 September 2017

**Present** – Councillors Ireton (Chairman), Mason and Whitaker.

**Independent Person (non-voting):** Roger Millin

**Parish Representatives:** Veronicka Dancer, Michael Rooze, Richard Simpson and Robert Stead.

**Also in Attendance:** Councillor Sutcliffe, Chairman of Planning Committee.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mercer and Solloway; and Independent Person Peter Charlesworth.

Start: 7pm

Finish: 8:15pm

Michael Rooze left the meeting at 8.05pm.

The minutes of the Committee's meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**Minutes for Report**

STN.328

**WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY - REVIEW**

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) submitted a report presenting the consultation responses received in respect of the revised Whistleblowing Policy. In particular, comments and observations had been received from the GMB union and these were considered by the Committee in detail and it was

**Resolved** – (1) That, the Monitoring Officer is asked to incorporate the Committee's suggested revisions and produce a revised draft for the next meeting.

(2) That, the GMB is formally thanked for their helpful comments and observations.

STN.329

**TRAINING FOR MEMBERS : PLANNING**

The Deputy Monitoring Officer submitted a report which provided Members with suggestions on how training could be provided to Members in relation to planning matters and formalise arrangements for any such training.

Whilst training for Councillor who sat on Planning Committee was not mandatory and the imposition of training was entirely reliant on the cooperation of the Members and political groups, it was considered good practice to ensure that the planning process was clearly understood. It was also important that the public engaging in the process were satisfied with, and clear about the decision making process.

**Resolved** – (1) That, the report is noted.

(2) That, subject to minor amendments, a formalised arrangement for training of Members in relation to planning matters as set out at paragraph 3.11 of the report now submitted, is agreed.

(3) That, a report is submitted at the end of 2018 assessing how successful and effectiveness the training had been including details of attendance.

STN.330            **LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN ANNUAL REVIEW LETTER**  
**2017**

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) submitted a report which provided the Committee with a copy of the Ombudsman's Annual Review Letter 2016/2017. The Standards Committee had responsibility for the oversight of complaints handling, including complaints to the Local Government Ombudsman. An annual review of complaints received was sent to all local authorities providing a breakdown of the number of complaints received and the subsequent decisions made.

**Resolved** – That, the Ombudsman's Annual Review Letter for 2016/2017 is noted.

STN.331            **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 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

**Resolved** – That, the monitoring report is noted.

**Minutes for Decision**

STN.332            **PROBITY IN PLANNING; GOOD PRACTICE FOR MEMBERS'**  
**GUIDANCE**

The Deputy Monitoring Officer submitted a report on the consultation that had taken place with Members in respect of the Planning Good Practice for Members' Guidance. The consultation responses and how they had been dealt with were summarised in the report.

Councillor Sutcliffe attended the meeting in order to contribute to the discussion based on his experience as the current Chairman of Planning Committee.

**RECOMMENDED** – That, subject to minor amendments, Council is asked to adopt the revised 'Good Practice for Members Guidance'.

Chairman