

## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

19 September 2018

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

**Independent Persons (non-voting):** John Boumphrey and Roger Millin.

**Officers** – Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer), Democratic Services Manager and Clerical Assistant (Minutes).

Apologies for absence were received from Independent Person Peter Charlesworth, Parish Representatives Michael Rooze, Veronika Dancer and Robert Stead.

Start: 6.30pm

Finish: 7.15pm

The minutes of the Committee's meeting held on 4 July 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **Minutes for Report**

#### STN.347      **ANNUAL REPORT OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY THE COUNCIL**

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) and Information Governance Manager submitted a joint report which presented a copy of the Ombudsman's Annual Letter 2018 together with an update about complaints received for the period 1 August 2017 to 1 August 2018.

The Committee wished to place on record its thanks to the Information Governance Manager David Roper-Newman for his work in updating and streamlining the complaints procedure.

In relation to the creation of a single contact point in Waste Management Operations, a concern was raised regarding the potential influx of work for Waste Management and the need for further review.

**Resolved** – That the Committee notes the report, complaints procedure, internal audit and the Ombudsman's Annual Letter.

STN.348

#### **LOCAL HEARING**

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) submitted a report regarding the outcome of a standards complaint in relation to the conduct of District Councillor Alan Sutcliffe.

**Resolved** – That the outcome of a standards complaint in relation to the conduct of District Councillor Alan Sutcliffe, be noted.

(Independent Person John Boumphrey joined the meeting at 6.45pm during the consideration of this item.)

STN.349

**MONITORING REPORT**

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) submitted a report, which updated members following the last report presented to the Committee on 4 July 2018.

**Resolved** – That the contents of the report be noted.

STN.350

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) submitted a report which sought Members' views on a proposal to issue supplemental guidance to support the Officer's Code of Conduct.

The key points of discussion were:

- To include an obligation for officers to report themselves to the Housing Options Manager if it was considered that they were in breach of the Code.
- That some further guidance be provided in relation to the acceptance of gifts and hospitality from other agencies.

**Resolved** – That the above matters be referred to Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) for further consideration.

**Minutes for Decision**

STN.351

**DISPENSATION SCHEME**

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) submitted a report, which sought to review the Council's Dispensation Scheme.

The Committee emphasised the importance of ensuring that the Dispensation Scheme could be applied at short notice and that it was both open and accountable.

**Recommended** –

- (1) That the Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) be given delegated authority to grant dispensations on grounds (a) and (b) in consultation with an Independent Person.
- (2) That grounds (c) and (d) be referred to a Sub Committee in consultation with the Standards Committee, Independent Person.

Chairman