

STANDARDS AND CONDUCT COMMITTEE

FRIDAY, 7TH MARCH, 2014

PRESENT: Councillor E Nash in the Chair

Councillors C Campbell, B Gettings,
J Hardy (as substitute for B Selby),
P Harrand and

In attendance: Mr G Tollefson – Independent Person

Apologies: Councillors B Selby and B Atha and Cllr Paul Cook
(Parish Representative)

19 Appeals against refusal of inspection of documents

There were no appeals against the refusal of inspection of documents.

20 Exempt Information - Possible exclusion of the press and public

There were no resolutions to exclude the public.

21 Late items

There were no late items submitted to the agenda for consideration.

22 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests

There were no declarations made.

23 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor B Atha and Councillor B Selby. Apologies were also received from Cllr Paul Cook the Parish Representative.

Councillor J Hardy was in attendance as substitute for Councillor B Selby.

24 Minutes - 29th November 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th November 2014 were approved as a correct record.

25 Matters Arising

Minute No. 56 Committee on Standards in Public Life: Annual Report 2012-13

The Head of Governance Services confirmed that a letter had been sent from the Chair of the Committee to the Chair of the Committee on Standards in Public Life conveying the views expressed by the Committee with regards to the disciplinary procedure in Leeds, and that a reply had been received.

26 Update Report

The Head of Governance Services presented a report of the City Solicitor. The report detailed complaints submitted to Leeds City Council regarding

potential breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct over the past municipal year. This included complaints against Leeds City Councillors and about Parish and Town Councillors in the Leeds area.

RESOLVED – The Committee resolved to note the information set out in the submitted report.

27 Defamation and Qualified Privilege

The Head of Governance Services presented a report of the City Solicitor. The report provided an overview of the potential use of the defence of qualified privilege in any proceedings against a Member in relation to a claim of defamation. The report also considered the Council's indemnity for Members and officers in so far as it extends to the defence of an allegation of defamation.

Members discussed the defences available should a claim for defamation arise.

RESOLVED – The Committee resolved to note the contents of the report.

28 Annual Report of the Standards and Conduct Committee

The Head of Governance Services presented a report of the City Solicitor. The report presented the draft annual report of the Standards and Conduct Committee. Members were asked to consider whether to refer the report to full Council for consideration so that full Council can receive assurances as to how the Authority's duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct (by Members and co-opted Members of the Council) is being discharged.

Members agreed that the report should be considered by full Council.

RESOLVED – The Committee resolved to agree the annual report of the Standards and Conduct Committee and refer it to full Council for consideration.