

STANDARDS AND CONDUCT COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 19TH JUNE, 2013

PRESENT: Councillor E Nash in the Chair

Councillors B Atha, C Campbell,
B Gettings, G Harper, J Harper and
P Harrant

Apologies:

Councillor B Selby

In Attendance:

Gordon Tollefson – Independent Person

1 Appeals against refusal of inspection of documents

There were no appeals against refusal of inspection of documents in accordance with Procedure Rule 25 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules.

2 Exempt Information - Possible exclusion of the press and public

There were no resolutions to exclude the press and public.

3 Late items

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

4 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary or other significant interests.

5 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Councillor Brian Selby.

6 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Friday 5th April 2013 were approved as a correct record.

7 Standards and Conduct Committee arrangements for 2013/14

The City Solicitor submitted a report setting out the standards and conduct arrangements adopted by full Council and proposing terms of reference for the new sub-committee of the Standards and Conduct Committee.

RESOLVED – Members of the Standards and Conduct Committee resolved to:

Final minutes approved as a correct record at the meeting held on Friday, 29th November, 2013

- (a) Note the standards and conduct arrangements adopted by full Council set out at Appendix 1 of the report;
- (b) Approve the terms of reference for the Consideration Sub-Committee Appendix 2 of the report; and
- (c) Agree the future meeting dates and work programme for the 2013/14 year set out at Appendix 3 of the report.

8 Update on recent standards issues

The City Solicitor submitted a report outlining standards related matters that have arisen since the last meeting of the committee in April 2013.

Members discussed the content of the report and considered whether it may be appropriate to provide information, to both Leeds City Council Members and Members of Town and Parish Councils, to clarify the role of the Independent Person. Members concluded that a letter from the Chair setting out the Independent Person's role would be beneficial.

RESOLVED – Members of the Standards and Conduct Committee resolved to:

- (a) Note the information provided in respect of recent complaints received;
- (b) Note the actions taken following the revised interpretation of the disclosable pecuniary interest regulations by Brandon Lewis, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Department of Communities and Local Government; and
- (c) Agree that the Chair circulate a letter to all councillors setting out the Independent Person's role and contact details.