

Standards Committee - Consideration Sub-Committee

Friday, 26th February, 2010

PRESENT:

Independent Members

Philip Turnpenny (Chair) Independent Member

Councillors

D Blackburn C Campbell

Parish Members

Councillor Paul Cook Parish Member

7 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.

8 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

In relation to agenda item 5 (Minute 11 refers), Appendix 1 (the final report and bundle of evidence of the investigating officer in relation to an investigation into a complaint against a Member), was classified as exempt under Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4 (7c). Members of the Sub-Committee agreed that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED – That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following parts of the agenda designated as containing exempt information on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information, as follows:-

- Appendix 1 of agenda item 5 (Minute 11 refers).

9 Late Items

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

10 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of personal/prejudicial interests for the purpose of section 81(3) of the Local Government Act 2000 and paragraphs 8 to 12 of the Members' Code of Conduct.

11 Final Investigation Report - Case Reference 0809006

The Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance) submitted a report setting out the findings of the Investigating Officer in a Code of Conduct investigation into a complaint against a Member. The investigation followed the submission of a complaint to the Assessment Sub-Committee, who had resolved to refer the complaint for investigation.

Appendix 1 to the report was designated as exempt under Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4 (7c).

The Investigator had found that the subject Member had:

- Failed to treat others with respect, contrary to paragraph 3(1) of the Code of Conduct; and
- Conducted themselves in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing their office or authority into disrepute, contrary to paragraph 5 of the Code of Conduct.

The Sub-Committee agreed that the action that the Hearings Sub-Committee could take against the Member would be sufficient were a finding of failure to be made, and therefore resolved to refer the matter to the Hearings Sub-Committee for determination.

RESOLVED – Members of the Consideration Sub-Committee resolved to refer the matter to the Hearings Sub-Committee for determination.