

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Standards Committee held at Knowle, Sidmouth on Tuesday, 19 July 2016

Attendance list at the end of the document

The meeting started at 10.00am and ended at 10.45am

- *1 Public speaking
There were no questions asked.
- *2 Minutes
The minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 19 April 2016, were confirmed and signed as a true record.
- *3 Declarations of interest
There were none.
- *4 Welcome to New Members of the committee
The Chairman welcomed two of the three new co-opted non-voting members, Councillor Frances Newth and Martin Goscomb. Councillor Jessica Bailey had sent her apologies.
- *5 Annual Report
Members considered the review of the work of the Standards Committee during 2015/16, which outlined:
 - the key areas of work for committee members
 - local review of our processes since the Localism Act 2011 changes
 - analysis of Code of Conduct complaints.

In response to a question from a member, the Monitoring Officer confirmed that training for Development Management Committee members would happen at the September meeting. Councillor Alan Dent also reported on the issue of lobbying of Development Management Committee members and that there needed to be training on this and the correct declarations of interests. Councillor Susie Bond also raised the issue of the list of gifts and hospitalities on the Council's website.

The Chairman thanked the Monitoring Officer for his report.

RESOLVED: that the review of the 2015/16 year be noted.

- *6 Complaint update
The Committee considered and noted the report of the Monitoring Officer, which provided an update for the Committee on new Code related cases received since 1 May 2016.

Following discussion on some of the complaints received in 2015.-2016, a request was made that the Monitoring Officer prepare a report to the next meeting on options on the assessment of the naming of complainants and subject members in the complaint process and complain reporting. The Monitoring Officer reported that decision notices could be published on the website, although routinely this was not

done but the Subject Member could request that their decision notice was published if they wished, but in such case the complainant may not be identified if they have requested that their identity was kept confidential.

Members raised the issue of the link to the complaints procedure which is listed below:

<http://eastdevon.gov.uk/media/1795790/Councillor-Complaint-procedures-Feb-14.pdf>

RESOLVED:

1. that the report be noted;
2. that the Monitoring Officer bring a report to the next meeting on the assessment of the naming of complainants and subject members in the complaint process and complaint reporting.

*7 Forward Plan

The Committee noted the contents of the forward plan and future meeting dates.

The following items would be included for consideration at the September meeting:

- Review of Members' Code of Conduct
- Assessment of the naming of complainants and subject members in the complaint process and complain reporting
- Forward Plan.

Attendance list

Present:

Councillors:

Stuart Hughes (Chairman)

Douglas Hull

Dawn Manley

Pauline Stott

Co-opted non-voting members:

Martin Goscomb, Co-opted Independent member

Frances Newth, Co-opted Parish/Town Council member

Tim Swarbrick, Co-opted Independent member

Also present:

Alison Willan, Independent Person

Councillors:

Susie Bond – substitute Committee member

Alan Dent – substitute Committee member

Officers:

Henry Gordon Lennox, Monitoring Officer and Strategic Lead - Legal, Licensing & Democratic Services

Chris Lane, Democratic Services Officer

Apologies:

Councillor Graham Godbeer
Jessica Bailey

Chairman Date