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KIRKLEES COUNCIL
STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Tuesday 2 June 2009

Present: Councillors Hardcastle, Patrick, Ridgway and C Smith

Co-opted Members: Mr P Blythe (in the Chair), Mr D Binns, Councillor M Barlow, Rev M Roberts, Prof A Kitson and Councillor P Cunnington

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C Kaye.

1 Minutes of previous Meeting

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 April 2009 be approved as a correct record.

2 Matters Arising

The Chair advised that two places were available for Members to attend the Standards Board for England Annual Assembly which would be taking place on 12 and 13 October 2009.

3 Interests

No interests were declared.

4 Admission of the Public

It was noted that all agenda items would be considered in public session.

5 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

6 Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

7 Nomination of Spokesperson

RESOLVED - That Councillor C Smith be nominated as Spokesperson to respond to any questions raised at Council.

8 Update on Complaints

The Head of Legal Services provided an update to Members on complaints received. She advised that a total of 20 complaints had been made, 13 of which were by Members of the public.

The Committee were informed that 11 had been referred for investigation. Information was also provided in terms of national statistics for the number and composition of complaints.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

9 Outcome on the Review of Local Determination

The Committee received a report which set out the outcome of the review of local determination, as agreed at the meeting of 24 February 2009. The report advised that a Review Group had met to set out a programme of work to review the process of local determination. The outcomes of this were set out within the Appendix to the report.

The Committee noted the outcomes of the meeting and the work that had since been progressed.

With regards to information on 'Making Complaints', a draft leaflet was tabled which set out details on how to make the complaint and some minor amendments were suggested. The actions agreed by the Review Group were set out in an Appendix to the report.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

10 Annual Report

The Chair presented the Standards Committee Annual Report which set out details of the work of the Committee, its achievements, and issues arising. Details were also included with regard to numbers of complaints made and arising learning points. The report also considered the work of the Committee for the following year.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

11 West Yorkshire Regional Standards Conference

The Committee were asked to give consideration to the approval of attendance at the West Yorkshire Regional Standards Conference. The Committee noted that the purpose of the Conference was to allow Members from the West Yorkshire Authorities to share experiences and issues arising from local determination. It was noted that the Conference would take place on 9 July 2009 in Bradford.

RESOLVED-

(1) That the details of the Conference be noted.

(2) That, for any external Member wishing to attend the Conference, an attendance allowance be paid where the Member is eligible.

12 Standards Board for England - Case Summaries

The Committee received a report which set out, for information, details of two decisions on cases as determined by the Standards Board for

England. An Annex to the report provided a summary of the investigations carried out, which related to Dersingham Parish Council and Gosport Borough Council.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

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Training Plan

The Committee received a report which set out a proposed Training Plan for the forthcoming year. The Plan had been formulated following the circulation of a questionnaire from which Members had highlighted areas on which they would like further training and guidance. The Plan was proposed to be delivered over the forthcoming municipal year.

RESOLVED - That the Training Plan be noted.