

Decision Summary

Committee: Standards Committee
Date: 28 April 2010
Committee Clerk: Adrian Johnson
Tel: 01484 221000

Chair

Mr P Blythe (Independent Member)

Councillors Attended

Derek John Hardcastle, Christine M L Smith, Ken Smith

Co-opted Members

Councillor M Barlow (Denby Dale Parish Council)
Councillor C Kaye (Holme Valley Parish Council)
Councillor P Cunnington (Kirkburton Parish Council)
Professor A Kitson (Independent Member)

Apologies

Councillor Patrick, Mr D J Binns (Independent Member)

1. Minutes of previous meeting

To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 9 March 2010.

Decision: Approved as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of apologies submitted by Councillors Ridgway, C Smith and K Smith and Professor Kitson.

2. Interests

The Councillors will be asked to say if there are any items on the Agenda about which they might have a personal interest which prevents them from taking part in the discussions. They could be financial or some other reason. A form is attached for completion by Councillors if they have an interest in any of the items to be discussed at the meeting. Please complete this form and return it to the Committee Officer at the end of the meeting.

Decision: None declared.

3. Admission of the public

Most debates take place in public. This only changes when there is a need to consider certain issues, for instance, commercially sensitive information or details concerning an individual. You will be told at this point whether there are any items on the Agenda which are to be discussed in private.

Decision: Determined that all the business would be considered in public.

4. Deputations / Petitions

The Committee will receive any petitions and hear any deputations from members of the public.

A deputation is where up to five people can attend the meeting and make a presentation on some particular issue of concern. A member of the public can also hand in a petition at the meeting but that petition should relate to something on which the body has powers and responsibilities.

Decision: None declared.

5. Update on Complaints

To receive a verbal update from the Monitoring Officer.

Contact: Vanessa Redfern 01484 221720

Decision: (1) Noted the update on complaints.
(2) Agreed that the update schedule provided to the Committee should in future include a column identifying cases referred to Standards for England.

6. Use of Social Media by Councillors and Code of Conduct

To receive an overview of the Standards issues which are raised by the use of social media.

Contact: Dermot Pearson 01484 221437

Decision: (1) That the Standards for England Blogging Quick Guide be circulated to all Councillors and to Local Parish and Town Councils.
(2) That a report be brought to the Standards Committee when further work has been done on the promotion of the use of social media by Councillors.

7. Development of the Standards Materials on the KMC Website

To consider suggestions for areas of improvements for Standards issues on the Council website.

Contact: Dermot Pearson 01484 221437

Decision:

- (1) That approval be given to creating a web portal for the Standards materials on the Kirklees Council website.
- (2) That Alan Kitson be nominated to progress the web portal proposals with officers.
- (3) That a further report be submitted to the Standards Committee when the portal is operational.

8. Review of the Role of Function of Standards Committee

To receive the recommendations of the Working Party.

Contact: Dermot Pearson 01484 221437

Decision:

- (1) That the recommendations from the Working Party be noted and supported, subject to an amendment to the recommendation in paragraph 2(n) of the report, to replace reference to 'ethical issues' with 'when the Committee's Annual Report is being discussed'.
- (2) That the consequential amendments arising to the Council's Constitution and Articles be submitted to Annual Council for approval.

9. Promotion of Ethical Standards

To consider the Promotion of Ethical Standards as contained within the Code of Conduct.

Contact: Vanessa Redfern 01484 221720

Decision: Please see additional report.

10. 2010/2011 Work Programme

To consider the Standards Committee Work Programme for the next Municipal Year.

Contact: Vanessa Redfern 01484 221720

Decision: During consideration of this item the meeting became inquorate, so it was agreed that the provisional list of items suggested by remaining Members in the meeting be reported to the next meeting for consideration, together with the dates of meetings of the Committee in 2010/11 as agreed at Annual Council.

11. Retiring Co-opted Members

The Committee noted two Co-opted Members who would be retiring from the Committee this year.

Decision: That the Committee places on record its thanks to Councillor Margaret Barlow of Denby Dale Parish Council and Rev Mike Roberts (Independent Member) for their work and contribution to the Committee during their term of office.