

Decision Summary

Committee: Standards Committee
Date: 12 October 2010
Committee Clerk: Andrea Woodside
Tel: 01484 221000

Chair

Mr P Blythe (Independent Member) (Chair)

Councillors Attended

Derek John Hardcastle, David Ridgway, Christine M L Smith, Ken Smith, Mohan S Sokhal

Co-opted Members

Mr D J Binns (Independent Member)
Councillor Shirley Watson (Meltham Town Council)
Councillor C Kaye (Holme Valley Parish Council)
Prof A Kitson (Independent Member)
Mr P Blythe (Independent Member)
Mr R Helm (Independent Member)
Mrs J Gregory (Independent Member)

1. Minutes of previous meetings

To receive (i) the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17 August 2010 and (ii) the Minutes of the Sub-Committee (Consideration Hearing) held on 10 September 2010.

Decision: Approved as a correct record.

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: Mr R Helm and Mrs J Gregory declared prejudicial interests in Agenda Item 8 as they were the subjects of the discussion.

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.

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: No deputations or petitions were received.

5. Public question time

The Committee will hear any questions from the general public.

Decision: No questions were asked.

6. Update on Complaints

To receive a verbal update from the Monitoring Officer.

Contact: Vanessa Redfern 01484 221720

Decision: That the update be noted.

7. Future of Standards Regime - Government Proposals

To receive details of the Government's proposals.

Contact: Dermot Pearson 01484 221437

Decision: (1) That the Government proposals be noted.
(2) That a copy of the report be circulated to all Councillors and Co-optees (with voting rights).

8. Appointment of External Members to Standards Committee

To receive an update on the decision of Council regarding the appointment of external members.

Contact: Dermot Pearson 01484 221437

Decision: (1) That Council be recommended to reconstitute this Committee on the basis of a 6:3:3 ratio for the period 1 April 2011 to 25 May 2011.

(2) That prior to any further recruitment to the Committee being undertaken the recruitment criteria be submitted to the Committee for consideration.

9. Development of Standards Materials on Kirklees Council Website

To seek comment on the proposals for a Web Portal.

Contact: Dermot Pearson 01484 221437

Decision: (1) That the content and layout of the new Standards web pages be noted and endorsed subject to some minor amendments as agreed at the meeting.

(2) That it be agreed that the decision notices relating to hearings of the Assessment Sub-Committee, Review Sub-Committee and Determination Sub-Committee not made available on the website.

10. Standards Committee - Press Protocol

To seek approval for the adoption of a media protocol for Standards Committee.

Contact: Dermot Pearson 01484 221437

Decision: That the media protocol be approved subject to the amendment of paragraph 1.5 to read 'Subject to 2.2 below, any reactive statement should be released as quickly as practicable on receipt of a media enquiry being received'.

11. Standards Committee Functions Regarding Politically Restricted Posts

To consider how the Committee's functions in relation to politically restricted posts should be dealt with.

Contact: Dermot Pearson 01484 221437

Decision: (1) That it be recommended to Corporate Governance and Audit Committee and Council that the Constitution be amended as set out in Annex 2 of the report.

(2) That the guidance as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be applied in dealing with any further political restriction matters.

12. Partnership Bodies

To receive a verbal report.

Contact: Vanessa Redfern 01484 221720

Decision: That the update be noted.

13. Proposed Revisions to Adopted Planning Protocol

To consider revisions to the Planning Protocol.

Contact: Vanessa Redfern 01484 221720

Decision: That Corporate Governance and Audit Committee be recommended to endorse the Protocol subject to the following amendments:-

(i) paragraph 5.1 be re-worded to reflect that the paragraph relates specifically to major developments;

(ii) the deletion of paragraph 9.9;

(iii) the amendment of paragraph 10.2 to reflect that 'a Councillor should have undergone satisfactory training' in place of 'a Councillor must have undergone satisfactory training'

(iv) the amendment of paragraph 10.6 to read :
'It is expected that in order to be able to continue to sit on this Committee you will be required to take part in refresher training'

14. Dates of Future Meetings - 2010/2011

Tuesday 7 December 2010 - 3.00 pm
Tuesday 1 February 2011 - 3.00 pm
Tuesday 29 March 2011 - 3.00 pm
Tuesday 31 May 2011 - 3.00 pm.