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KIRKLEES COUNCIL
STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Tuesday 29 March 2011

Present: Councillors Smith and Hardcastle

Co-opted Members: Mr P Blythe (in the Chair), Councillor C Kaye,
Councillor P Cunnington, Professor A Kitson and Mr R Helm

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Patrick,
Ridgway, Smith and Sokhal

1 Minutes of Previous Meetings

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the Committee held on 1 February 2011, and the Sub Committee held on 11 March 2011, be approved as correct records.

2 Interests

No interests were declared

3 Admission of the Public

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

4 Update on Complaints

The Senior Legal Officer tabled a report which set out the latest position on the complaints investigation process. The Committee noted the present number of live complaints and asked questions on two outstanding complaints, reference numbers 2008-012 and 2009-032.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

5 Update Report on the work of the Sub-Committees

The Committee received a report which provided a summary of decisions taken at meetings of its Sub-Committees.

The Committee noted the outcomes of hearings in relation to complaint references 2010-04, 2008-012 and 2009-018 019 020.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

6 Report on Standards Proposals in the Decentralisation and Localism Bill

The Committee gave consideration to a report which detailed the elements of the Localism Bill which relate to the future of the Standards Regime. It was noted that the Bill may be amended as it passes through the parliamentary process and the report referred to the Bill as it is currently drawn.

The Senior Legal Officer advised that there would be a Voluntary Code of Conduct which would replace the Standards Regime and that arrangements would be put in place to allow outstanding cases to be resolved following its abolition.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

7 Views of Leading Members - Local Standards Regime

The Committee received a verbal update from the Senior Legal Officer detailing the views of Leading Members with regard to the abolition of the Standards Regime. The Committee heard that Lead Members want an arrangement put in place to substitute for the Standards Regime, although this would be different to the current Standards Committee. The Senior Legal Officer advised that the details of this development were still in the process of formation.

RESOLVED - That the update be noted.