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KIRKLEES COUNCIL
STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Monday 18 July 2011

Present: Councillors Ridgway, C Smith and K Smith

Co-opted Members: Mr P Blythe (in the Chair), Councillor T Bellamy,
Councillor P Cunnington and Prof A Kitson

1 Minutes of Previous Meetings

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2011 be approved as a correct record.

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 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

5 Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

6 Appointment of Spokesperson

RESOLVED - That Councillor C Smith be appointed as the Elected Member to act as spokesperson for the Standards Committee for the 2011/12 Municipal Year.

7 Update on Complaints

The Committee were provided with a report which set out the latest position on the complaints investigation process.

Discussion took place as to whether it would be possible for the subject of a complaint to be informed of broad details of the allegation and the date of the event. It was requested that, if possible such changes take place with immediate effect. The Committee asked that if this was not feasible, details be provided at the next meeting regarding the constraints of regulations in terms of notifying the subject matter of the complaint. It was

also requested that Committee Members have sight of the letter template which is issued in such circumstances.

The Committee requested also that at its next meeting discussion take place with regard to the current number of investigations outstanding and proposals in terms of progress/completion given the current constraints on resources.

RESOLVED -

(1) That the report be noted.

(2) That, if possible, amendments to the notification process be introduced as discussed.

(3) That further information be provided on the proposed process for progressing the outstanding complaints.

8 Chair of Standards Committee - Annual Report

Paul Blythe submitted his Annual Report for the Committee's consideration. The report set out a summary of work undertaken by the Committee in the 2010/2011 Municipal Year. The Committee were asked to put forward any suggestions for amendments to the report prior to its submission to Council.

The Committee noted the content of the report and suggested that additional information be included to give a more detailed explanation on the complaints that had been dealt with during the Municipal Year prior to the reports consideration by Council.

RESOLVED - That the Chair's Annual Report be amended to include further information relating to complaints submitted during the 2010/2011 Municipal Year, prior to its submission to Council.

9 Discussion : Case Study - Bristol City Council

The Committee considered the details of a Case Study involving Bristol City Councillor's conviction for racially aggravated harassment under the Public Order Act.

RESOLVED - That the details of the Case Study be noted.

10 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee be held on Tuesday 13 September 2011.