

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

10th June 2015

Present: Councillors: David Coldwell, Ian Howard, Godfrey Newman, Tricia Youtan

Advisory members

Present: Independent Person: John Donaldson

Apologies: Councillors: Brian Donnelly, Brian O'Connell
Independent Person: Mary Jagger

SC/1 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED

That Councillor Ian Howard be elected Chairman of the Committee.

SC/2 **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED

That Councillor David Coldwell be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

SC/3 **TIMES OF MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ENSUING YEAR**

RESOLVED

That meetings of the Committee be held at 10.00am for the ensuing Council year.

SC/4 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 18th March 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

SC/5 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

SC/6 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Monitoring Officer advised that two new Parish Council representatives to sit on the Standards Committee would be nominated at the Horsham Association of Local Councillors meeting on 6th July 2015.

SC/6 Announcements (cont.)

The Monitoring Officer announced that an Independent Persons Conference, hosted by Horsham District Council, would be held at the Capitol Theatre on 17th July. There would be three external trainers at the Conference, including from Hoey Ainscough Associates who are one of the leading trainers in Standards matters. There was an excellent take up for the conference with most of the Independent Persons from local authorities in Sussex scheduled to attend.

New government regulations regarding disciplinary matters for statutory officers had been introduced. The Monitoring Officer advised that this change would give Independent Persons a new role in advising on relevant disciplinary cases, with any decision to be made by full Council.

Membership of the Committee, as agreed at Council in May, now resulted in there being two Cabinet Members following the announcement of appointments to Cabinet. This was contrary to the Constitution. The Chairman would therefore discuss the makeup of the Committee with the Leader of the Council and a new member would be appointed accordingly.

SC/7 **MINUTES OF THE LOCAL ASSESSMENT SUB-COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the meeting of the Local Assessment Sub-Committee held on 15th April 2015 were received.

SC/8 **STANDARDS COMMITTEE WORKS PROGRAMME**

The Standards Committee works programme was discussed by the Committee. In particular the following points were noted:

- 4 Prepare annual report for presentation to full Council: This was considered to be good practice and Members agreed that the Monitoring Officer would prepare a draft report for circulation to the Committee and for it to be included on the next Committee agenda.
- 5 Promotion of the role and work of the Standards Committee: It was agreed that the information about Standards Committee on the website should be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting.
- 6 Attendance at Council and other meetings: The Monitoring Officer advised that this item had been required by the previous standards regime when the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee had been independent members. The item would therefore be removed from the works programme.
- 7 Liaison with Chief Executive, Leader and Leader of Opposition: The Monitoring Officer would mention this informally to the Chief Executive and

SC/8 Standards Committee Works Programme (cont.)

Leader of the Council. It was not considered necessary at this time to invite them to attend a Standards Committee meeting.

- 9 Standards Training: Training on standards and other aspects of governance had been arranged for Members on 15th July as part of the schedule of induction events for new Councillors. Further training for Committee Members, possibly on an individual basis, would be arranged as and when required.
- 10 Review of Register of Interests: All District Councillors had returned their Members Interest forms by the deadline. The information required on this form would be reviewed by the Committee in due course.
- 13 Review of Local Standards Regime: The Council had resolved in May 2014 that the standards regime be reviewed within the first year of the new Council. This would be undertaken later in the year.

The meeting finished at 10.54 having commenced at 10.00am.

CHAIRMAN