

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the proceedings at a meeting of the Standards Committee held in the Georgian Room, Kendal Town Hall, on Tuesday, 19 September 2017, at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Councillors

Pete McSweeney (Vice-Chairman)

Caroline Airey

John Holmes

Eric Morrell

Independent Member

Parish Members

David Peters

Peter Smillie

Apologies for absence were received from District Councillors Chris Hogg (Chairman) and Mark Wilson and David Tweddle, Independent Person.

Officers

Hardeep Burnley

Principal Food, Licensing and Safety Officer

Simon McVey

Assistant Director Performance and Innovation

Paul Rogers

Assistant Committee Services Officer

Debbie Storr

Director of Policy and Resources (Monitoring Officer)

S/1 MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the Chairman be authorised to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 18 April 2017.

S/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED – That it be noted that no declarations were raised.

S/3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - EXCLUDED ITEMS

RESOLVED – That it be noted that there are no excluded items on the Agenda.

S/4 COMPLIMENTS, CUSTOMER FEEDBACK AND COMPLAINTS RECEIVED FROM APRIL 2017 TO JULY 2017

The Assistant Director Performance and Innovation presented an update on the number of complaints and compliments received from April 2017 to July 2017. It was noted that the number 45 in paragraph 3.4 to the report should read 22. He emphasised that the reasons for the complaints had varied with no underlying trends. Complaints that had been made had been answered within the target period and had compared favourably to response times in previous years. Members noted that the number of complaints made to Neighbourhood Services had reduced significantly compared to the previous year.

The Committee discussed whether it was necessary to receive a full report to both Standards Committee meetings held during the year. In response to a suggestion made by the Assistant Director Performance and Innovation, Members were of the view that a full Compliments, Customer Feedback and Complaints report could be submitted to the Committee in April each year and a summarised version of the report could be included as part of the Local Ombudsman Annual Review report at the September Committee meeting.

RESOLVED – That

(1) the report be received; and

(2) a full report regarding compliments, customer feedback and complaints be submitted to the April Standards Committee meetings and a summarised version of the report be included as part of the Local Ombudsman Annual Review report at the September meetings of the Committee.

S/5 PROTOCOL ON GOOD PRACTICE IN LICENSING FOR MEMBERS

The Principal Food, Licensing and Safety Officer presented a report which requested the Committee to consider whether to recommend to Council the adoption of a Protocol on Good Practice in Licensing for Members. She emphasised that the proposed protocol would put in place mandatory training and guidance for Members wishing to consider licensing matters.

The Principal Food, Licensing and Safety Officer informed the Committee that officers were working to improve the licensing training package for Members to include e-learning which would allow access to licensing training on-line.

It was suggested that the references to ‘gambling matters’ in paragraph 2.2 of the draft protocol, Appendix 1 to the report refers, should include references to the Gambling Act 2005.

RESOLVED – That

(1) the contents of the report be noted; and

(2) subject to the amendments suggested at the meeting, the draft Protocol on Good Practice in Licensing for Members, as attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be recommended to Council for approval.

S/6 LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN ANNUAL REVIEW 2016-17

The Director of Policy and Resources (Monitoring Officer) presented the Local Government Ombudsman Annual Review 2016-17. Members noted the ten investigations made by the Local Ombudsman which were the same number as had been investigated in 2015-16. There were no underlying trends in the complaints made. She drew Members’ attention to the complaints received which were set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

S/7 CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS

The Director of Policy and Resources (Monitoring Officer) presented a report regarding complaints received under the Council's Standards Arrangements from 1 April 2017. There was no ongoing action at the present time.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

S/8 REGISTER OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS

The Director of Policy and Resources (Monitoring Officer) presented a report which reviewed the register of disclosable pecuniary and other registrable interests for District Council Members and co-optees for the period to September 2017.

RESOLVED – That the review and the report be noted.

S/9 PARISH REGISTERS

The Director of Policy and Resources (Monitoring Officer) presented a report which reviewed the register of disclosable pecuniary and other interests for parish Councillors for the period to September 2017.

RESOLVED – That the review and the report be noted.

S/10 EMPLOYEE REGISTER OF INTERESTS AND GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY

The Director of Policy and Resources (Monitoring Officer) presented a report reviewing the register of interests and gifts and hospitality for employees for the period September 2016 to September 2017.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

S/11 STANDARDS COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Director of Policy and Resources (Monitoring Officer) presented the Standards Committee Work Programme for June 2017 onwards. She emphasised that it was a rolling work programme which would be reviewed as the year progressed. She highlighted in particular the review of dispensations which would be undertaken to feed into the next meeting.

RESOLVED – That the Work Programme be noted.

The meeting ended at 2.50 p.m.