

Standards Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2011

Present: Independent Co-opted Members Mr J Snadden – in the Chair - and Mrs E Carmichael

City Councillors: Burns, O’Callaghan, Sandiford and Trotman

Ringway Parish Councillors: C O’Donovan

Apologies: Amanda Isles, Councillors Shaw and Whitmore

ST/11/04 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the committee meeting held on 14 March 2011 as a correct record subject to the following amendment to the Panel Meeting Dates 2011 - 2012:

Councillor Shaw to replace Councillor Firth and Councillor Trotman to replace Councillor Ali on the Panels.

ST/11/05 Terms of appointment of Independent members

A report was submitted proposing that the Committee agree to recommend that the Council extend Amanda Isles’ term of appointment as an independent member of the Standards Committee for a period of one year, expiring 9 July 2012.

Decisions

That a report be taken to the next meeting of the Constitutional and Nomination Committee regarding the proposed extension of Amanda Isles term of appointment.

ST/11/06 Monitoring Report

A report updating members on allegations of breach of the Council’s Code of Conduct was submitted. Members requested more information in relation to the revenue costs referred to in the report.

Decision

To note the report and request that officers prepare a note to be circulated to members of the Standards Committee providing details on the revenue costs in connection with the arrangements for and holding of the meetings of the Standards Sub-committees and associated other action and investigations.

ST/11/07 Localism Bill

Members discussed the proposed enactment of the Localism Bill and how this might affect the Standards Regime. The Standards Committee received reports on the future of the Standards Regime in January and March this year. The Bill is progressing through Parliament and as soon as more is known, a further report will be prepared for the Standards Committee to enable members to consider the options regarding the future of the standards regime for recommendation to Council. In the meantime, the Principal Solicitor suggested that members of the Committee may want to issue an edition of the Members' Update to be circulated by email to all Council members on the current position regarding the progress of the Bill. Members considered that this would be useful and that the Members' Update should also include an article on areas that have been highlighted as part of the process regarding allegations of breach of the Council's Code of Conduct.

Decision

That a draft edition of the Members' Update be prepared and emailed to members of the Standards Committee for comment before circulation to all members.