

## **Standards Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2011**

Present: Independent Co-opted Members: Mr J Snadden – in the Chair - and Amanda Isles

City Councillors: Burns, Sandiford, Shaw Trotman and Whitmore

Apologies: Councillor O’Callaghan and C O’Donovan

#### **ST/11/08 Minutes**

##### **Decision**

To approve the minutes of the committee meeting held on 27 June 2011 as a correct record.

#### **ST/11/09 Amendments to the Localism Bill**

A report was submitted by the City Solicitor to update the Committee on recent government amendments to the Localism Bill (now the Localism Act 2011), which will require authorities to adopt a code of conduct for elected and co-opted members that is consistent with the Nolan Principles of Public Life.

The report also detailed the requirement for arrangements to be made for the investigation of allegations made against Members and the taking of decisions on such allegations. The report advised of the requirements to maintain a register of Members interests and those relating to the disclosure of any pecuniary interests.

The report also detailed the sanctions that can be made for failing to comply with these requirements.

##### **Decisions**

1. To note the report.
2. To request the City Solicitor to report to a future meeting of the Committee with proposals for the implementation of the new ethical framework, including a revised Code of Conduct and associated protocols, and new arrangements for the investigation of, and the taking of decisions on, allegations made against members.

#### **ST/11/10 Exclusion of the Public**

A recommendation was made that the public be excluded during consideration of the next items of business.

##### **Decision**

To exclude the public during consideration of the following items which involved consideration of information relating to a report of an Ethical Standards Officer which is confidential by reason of sections 63 and 65A of the Local Government Act 2000.

**ST/11/11      Report of the Ethical Standards Officer appointed by the  
Standards of England**

(Public and Press Excluded)

A report was submitted to inform the Committee of the findings of the Ethical Standards Officer appointed by Standards for England to investigate a complaint referred to it by the Standards (Assessment) Committee.

**Decision**

1. To note the report and that findings of the Ethical Standards Officer (ESO).
2. That the recommendations of the ESO should be considered and taken in account as part of the review of the Code of Conduct for Members and associated protocols which is being carried out as part of the implementation of the provisions of the Localism Act 2011.