

Standards Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2013

Present

Independent Co-opted Members: Professor S Hardy – in the Chair

Councillors: P Andrews, M Clayton, G Evans and A Taylor

Also present in their capacity as Independent Persons: Mrs E Carmichael

Apologies

Ringway Parish Council - Councillor C O'Donovan

Co-opted Independent Member – Mrs A Isles

Independent Persons - Mr A Eastwood and Ms N Malik

ST/13/08 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the committee meeting held on 11 March 2013 as a correct record.

ST/13/09 Annual Governance Statement

The Committee considered the 2012/13 Annual Governance Statement (AGS) which has been produced following the completion of the annual review of the Council's governance arrangements and systems of internal control.

The Performance and Business Planning Lead introduced the report. He explained that production of an AGS is a statutory requirement for all councils. The AGS evaluates governance systems in place from the previous year and includes steps to be taken to improve the following year. The Finance Scrutiny Committee and the Audit Committee have considered the draft AGS and made appropriate recommendations. After consideration by the Standards Committee the Annual Governance Statement will form part of the Council's final accounts that are reported to Audit Committee on 11 July 2013.

In discussion of paragraph 7.12 of the AGS, which reviewed compliance issues with information governance, the Committee suggested that additional wording was included to make it more explicit that the Council will comply with all relevant regulations and adopt best practice. The Performance and Business Planning Lead agreed to review this.

The Committee endorsed the AGS, and noted that it was clear from the document where the Standards Committee fitted into the governance structures of the Council.

Decision

To note the Annual Governance Statement and the actions proposed to further

develop or strengthen elements of the Council's governance arrangements during 2013/14.

ST/13/10 Retirement of the City Solicitor

The Committee thanked Susan Orrell, who retired from her position as City Solicitor in May. The Committee recognised her long serving role in maintaining the standards regime in Manchester. The Committee also welcomed Liz Treacy as the new City Solicitor.

ST/13/11 Mrs A Isles

The Committee congratulated Mrs Isles who was recently appointed as a Deputy District Judge.

ST/13/12 Mrs E Carmichael

The Committee thanked Mrs Carmichael who was stepping down as an independent person for standards. The Committee noted her long standing role and wished her well for the future.