

Standards Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2014

Present

Independent Co-opted Members: A. Isles – in the Chair
Councillors Andrews, Clayton, Evans, Taylor and Trotman
Ringway Parish Council - Councillor C O'Donovan

Apologies

Mr A Eastwood
Ms N Malik

ST/14/01 Appointment of Chair

The Committee noted that on 4 December 2013, the Council appointed Ms Amanda Isles as chair of the Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2013/14.

ST/14/02 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the committee meeting held on 18 November 2013 as a correct record.

ST/14/03 Members Update on Ethical Governance

The Committee considered a report of the City Solicitor which sought approval of the content of the draft Members' Update January 2014 prior to circulation to all members by email. The update provided information on the Department for Communities and Local Government's (DCLG) guidance to members on openness and transparency on personal interests, information protection guidance, and advice regarding members' use of social media and Council owned electronic communications.

Members felt that a stronger message about the potential penalties of failure to comply with all aspects of the rules was necessary, particularly with reference to the disclosure of interests in committee meetings. A member suggested that the email's title should give a clearer indication of its content in order that it is not inadvertently overlooked. There was a discussion about whether to provide face-to-face training for members in addition to the emailed update. The Committee subsequently agreed that training will be offered and members should be invited to indicate their interest in receiving face-to-face training when the update is circulated.

Decision

1. To agree that the content of the draft Members' Update will be amended to contain a strong clear message about the importance of complying with all aspects of the ethical governance rules and potential penalties for non compliance.

2. To agree that members will be asked to provide feedback whether they need face-to-face training in addition to the emailed guidance.

ST/14/04 Committee meetings in 2014/15 Municipal year

Decision

To approve the following meeting dates for the Standards Committee for the 2014/15 municipal year:

Thursday 19 June 2014, 10.30am
Thursday 13 November 2014, 10.30am
Thursday 19 March 2014. 10.30am