

Audit and Standards Committee – 9th July, 2013

Report of the Director of Corporate Resources

Re-appointment of the Standards Sub-Committee

Purpose of Report

1. To re-appoint the Standards Sub-Committee

Background

2. This Committee at its meeting held on 3rd July, 2012, following consideration of a report on the Localism Act, 2011 – The New Standards Arrangements, agreed amongst other things, to appoint a Standards Sub-Committee.
3. The purpose of the sub-committee is to hear and determine complaints against Members and Co-opted Members under the provisions of the Members' Code of Conduct and in accordance with the local procedures that have been put in place.
4. The membership of the Sub-Committee in 2012/13 comprised four elected members, Councillors Cowell, Taylor, Mrs Westwood and Zada, being two from each political group represented on the Committee, with proportionality waived as to Membership. The Council at its annual meeting on 16th May, 2013 agreed that the proportionality requirement again be waived.

Finance

5. The cost of holding meetings of the sub-committee would be met from within existing resources

Law

6. The relevant provisions are contained in the Localism Act, 2011 together with regulations, orders and statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

Equality Impact

7. The Sub-Committee will meet to hear and determine complaints about alleged breaches of the Local Code of Conduct requiring Members and Co-opted Members to behave in a manner that is consistent with seven overriding principles so as to achieve best value for their residents and maintain public confidence in the Authority. The principles will have a bearing on issues such as equality.

Recommendation

8. That the Standards Sub-Committee be re-appointed for 2013/14 with its existing terms of reference and that the Membership of the sub-committee comprise four members of this Committee, two from each of the political groups on the committee, with proportionality waived as to membership.



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List of Background Papers

None