

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Monday, 16th January, 2012 at 6.00 p.m.
In Committee Room 4, The Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

The Bishop of Dudley (Independent Chairman)

Councillors Ahmed, Burston, Hanif, Kettle and Mrs Martin; Mrs V Ainsworth and Father A Williams.

Officers:-

The Director of Corporate Resources, Assistant Director, (Law and Governance), Democratic Services Manager and Mr J Jablonski (All Directorate of Corporate Resources).

15 **APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor Ms Partridge.

16 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No member made a declaration of interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of any matter to be considered at this meeting.

17 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 13th October, 2011, be approved as a correct record and signed.

18 **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE 2010/2011**

A report of the Monitoring Officer was submitted on the Annual Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life 2010/2011. A copy of the Annual Report was attached at Appendix 1.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendix 1, to the report, submitted be noted.

A report of the Monitoring Officer was submitted on the receipt of revised guidance from Standards for England concerning “blogging” and the use of other internet sites. A copy of the revised guidance was attached as an Appendix to the report submitted.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted on updated guidance from Standards for England concerning “blogging” and the use of other internet sites, be noted and that the updated guidance be drawn to the attention of all Members via the Members Portal Internet site. -

A report of the Monitoring Officer was submitted on the fundamental changes to the existing standards regime contained in the Localism Act, 2011.

In his presentation of the content of the report the Monitoring Officer commented on the content of the report and in particular mentioned that relevant provisions relating to the standards elements of the act, such as the removal of powers from existing local Standards Committees, the requirement to adopt a local Code of Conduct and to appoint Independent Person(s) will come into force with effect from 1st July, 2012

As many of the relevant provisions still required clarification and receipt of guidance, which was unlikely to be received until the beginning of March, it was proposed that a further report be submitted to the next meeting of the committee and that the committee scheduled for 10th April, 2012 be brought forward .

RESOLVED

- 1 That the information contained in the report, and as reported at the meeting, on changes to the existing standards regime, as contained in the Localism Act, 2011, and as summarised in the report submitted, be noted
- 2 That the Monitoring Officer submit a further report to the next meeting of this committee to be held on 8th March, 2012, concerning proposals to implement the amended standards regime taking account of further Regulations and Guidance issued by the Government and identifying proposals to undertake training for members at the appropriate time.

The meeting ended at 6.45 p.m.

CHAIRMAN