

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of **Standards Committee** held in Committee Room 1A, County Hall, Durham on **Monday 2 September 2013 at 10.00 am**

Present:

Councillor J Armstrong (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors E Bell, J Clark, M Dixon, B Graham, G Holland and I Jewell

Town Councillor T Batson

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Dixon-Dawson, Mr P Jackson and Councillors E Huntington, B Stephens and M Williams.

2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 June 2013

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 June 2013 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 Declarations of Interest, if any

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Annual Report of the Standards Committee - Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer

Consideration was given to the draft Annual Report of the Standards Committee (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Deputy Monitoring Officer advised that the report covered the period July 2012-July 2013 and reflected on the changes to standards arrangements during that time. The report also reviewed the work undertaken by the Standards Committee since those changes were implemented.

Members were pleased to see that there had been a slight reduction in the number of complaints made under the Code of Conduct and felt that the new procedure for dealing with such complaints, was working effectively.

Resolved:

That the report be approved for submission to full Council.

5 Any resolution relating to the exclusion of the public during the discussion of items containing exempt information.

Resolved:

That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the said Act.

6 Update on the handling of Current Complaints - Report of Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services which provided an update report in respect of complaints of alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.