

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of **Standards Committee** held in Committee Room 1A, County Hall, Durham on **Thursday 5 February 2015 at 9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor J Armstrong (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors E Bell, J Clark, B Graham, G Holland, E Huntington, I Jewell, B Stephens and M Williams (Vice-Chairman)

Town Councillor T Batson.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Dixon and Parish Councillor R Harrison.

2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 November 2014

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 November 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 Declarations of Interest, if any

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Such other business as in the opinion of the Chairman of the Meeting is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration.

Town Councillor T Batson raised concerns further to the recent exposure of incidents which had occurred at Rotherham Council. He felt it necessary that some words of reassurance be published by Durham County Council to state that the authority prioritised the safeguarding of children.

It was agreed that the issue would be discussed with the relevant Portfolio Holder and Corporate Director who would be best placed to lead on any such publicity.

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

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).

The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented the report, which demonstrated to Members the rate of business which was being dealt with in relation to Code of Conduct complaints.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.