

## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a meeting of the Standards Committee of the Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne, on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016 at 1400 hours.

### **PRESENT:-**

Members:-

Councillor C.R. Moesby in the Chair

Councillors G. Buxton, H.J. Gilmour and D.S. Watson.

Independent Member:-

R. Jaffray.

Officers:-

S.E.A. Sternberg (Monitoring Officer), A. Wylie (Deputy Monitoring Officer) and A. Bluff (Governance Officer).

The Committee observed a minute's silence in memory of John Yates and also Mike Wood who had both recently passed away. John had been the Independent Member who had chaired the Standards Committee for many years and Mike had been a Cooptee Member of the Committee.

### **0334. APOLOGY**

An apology was received on behalf of Councillor M.G. Crane.

### **0335. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

There were no urgent items of business to consider.

### **0336. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made.

### **0337. SPECIAL MINUTES – 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2016**

Moved by Councillor C.R. Moesby and seconded by Councillor H.J. Gilmour  
**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of a Standards Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2016 be approved as a correct record.

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### **0338. DERBY PUBLIC INTEREST REPORT**

Committee considered a report which informed Members of the Derby Public Interest Report by Grant Thornton.

The report was published in June 2016 and raised some serious governance issues for Derby City Council; however, these were now historic as new political and management leadership were in place.

The specific issues related to the management of major projects and member conduct with regard to; procurement of a job evaluation consultant, governance of the project and involvement of members in decision making, Webhelp – State Aid advice, taxi licensing and a HR Payroll Project. The report demonstrated the potential significant financial costs to councils in not dealing with procurement and governance issues properly.

The Monitoring Officer noted that the issues raised at Derby City Council should be considered in relation to current work by Bolsover and North East Derbyshire District councils and whether further reminders by way of training sessions should be given.

Both Bolsover and North East Derbyshire District councils operated a Delegated Decision Notices (DD's) process, which requested that consultation had taken place with the Section 151 Officer, the Monitoring Officer and also the Leader and Deputy Leader or relevant Portfolio Holder. The Notice also required information for any conflicts of interest and any dispensations. These DDs would be reviewed as part of the Review of the Constitution and taken to Annual Council in 2017.

Moved by Councillor H.J. Gilmour and seconded by Councillor R.J. Bowler  
**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

### **0339. ANNUAL REVIEW OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY REGISTERS**

Committee considered a report in relation to the annual review of the Council's Gift and Hospitality Registers.

It was good governance to check the Register once a year to ensure it was being used and that the entries were appropriate.

The review showed that all registered offers of gifts and hospitality were accepted for the Calendar year 2015.

Most of the gifts were relatively small but there were several declarations that amounted to between £80 and £85. These entries were in relation to a group of employees that had attended an overnight invitation from the developers of the new Clowne swimming facility, Pulse Fitness, to one of their previous developments - Lowestoft Leisure facility.

There were 7 gifts and hospitalities registered by Members in the period and 4 of these were in relation to the Pulse Fitness invitation.

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Individuals took responsibility for their own actions in respect of the receipt of gifts and hospitality, however, advice was available from the Monitoring Officer, Deputy Monitoring Officer and Legal services in relation to any offer. Members and officers were encouraged to seek this advice where they had an issue.

The outcome of the review was shown on a spreadsheet attached to the report.

Moved by Councillor H.J. Gilmour and seconded by R. Jaffray  
**RESOLVED** that the outcome of the review be noted.

### **0340. COMPLAINTS OF BREACH OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT 2016**

Committee considered information in relation to complaints received against Members regarding a breach of the code of conduct. The information also included complaints received relating to parish council members.

A total of 10 complaints had been received in the period January 2016 to August 2016 - 6 of which were in relation to parish councillors. Five of the parish council complaints and three of the District Council complaints had resulted in no further action.

Moved by Councillor H.J. Gilmour and seconded by Councillor D.S. Watson  
**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

### **0341. WORK PLAN**

Committee considered their Work Plan for the 2016/17 period.

It was noted that training for parish councillors had not yet been devised.

The Monitoring Officer requested three Standards Committee Members to sit on the Constitution Working Group and further to a short discussion taking place; Members felt that all Standards Committee Members should sit on this Group.

Moved by Councillor C.R. Moesby and seconded by Councillor R.J. Bowler  
**RESOLVED** that all Members of Standards Committee be part of the Constitution Working Group.

(Monitoring Officer)

### **0342. RECRUITMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON**

Committee considered a report of the Monitoring Officer which outlined proposals for replacement of one of the Independent persons who had sadly passed away.

Under legislation, the Council was required to have at least one Independent Person. However, the Council had decided to recruit a second Independent Person to ensure flexibility and resilience.

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The report recommended that the previous recruitment exercise be followed where the role was advertised on the Council's website, parish council notice boards and in the Council's "In Touch" magazine as this had resulted in a number of applications and interviews.

The remuneration received by the Independent Person was currently £800 per annum and it was suggested that the appointment be for 4 years.

A draft advertisement was attached to the report for Members' consideration and the appointment of a successful candidate would be recommended to Council.

Moved by Councillor H.J. Gilmour and seconded by R. Jaffray

**RESOLVED** that (1) a recruitment process for the appointment of a second Independent Person be commenced in accordance with the process outlined in the report,

(2) the appointment of an Independent Person be advertised in the Council's "In Touch" magazine, the Council's website and parish council notice boards,

(3) Council be asked to appoint the successful candidate,

(4) the remuneration for the role remains at £800.

(5) authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer to amend the recruitment process and associated documentation where necessary.

(Monitoring Officer)

The meeting concluded at 1425 hours.