
MEETING	JOINT STANDARDS COMMITTEE
DATE	12 SEPTEMBER 2012
PRESENT	COUNCILLOR RUNCIMAN (CYC COUNCIL MEMBER) COUNCILLOR BARTON (CYC COUNCIL MEMBER) COUNCILLOR SCOTT (CYC COUNCIL MEMBER) COUNCILLOR TAYLOR (CYC MEMBER) COUNCILLOR CRAWFORD (PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER) COUNCILLOR MARTIN (PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER) COUNCILLOR SIMPSON (PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER)
IN ATTENDANCE	MRS BAINTON (INTERIM INDEPENDENT PERSON) MR DIXON (INTERIM INDEPENDENT PERSON)

PART A - MATTERS DEALT WITH UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

RESOLVED: That Councillor Runciman be appointed as Chair of the committee.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

RESOLVED: That Councillor Martin be appointed as Vice-Chair of the committee.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any personal, prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests they may have in the business on the agenda. None were declared.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Standards Committee held on 26 June 2012 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

5. MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Joint Standards Committee Sub-Committee meeting held on 2 August 2012 be approved and signed as a correct record.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was reported that there were no registrations to speak at the meeting under the council's Public Participation Scheme.

7. IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW STANDARDS ARRANGEMENTS

[See also Part B minute]

Members considered a report that provided information regarding progress with the implementation of the new standards arrangements by councils in York.

(i) Codes of Conduct

It was noted that the City Council had adopted a Code at its July Council meeting. Each Parish Council had also had to adopt its own Code. They had been asked to confirm that they had done so but a number of these were still outstanding. Members requested that they be notified as to which parish councils had contacted City of York Council with confirmation of the Code they had adopted.¹

City of York Council would be arranging training on this issue and details would be circulated to the committee when these were available.²

(ii) Independent Persons

An update was given on the appointment of the Independent Persons. Four applications had been received to date. Consideration was given to the interview arrangements. It was the intention that the interview panel's recommendation would be considered by Council at their meeting on 11 October 2012.

Consideration was given as to whether the Independent Persons would have speaking rights at meetings of sub-

committees of the Joint Standards Committee. It was agreed that they would but that this would be kept under review.

- RESOLVED:
- (i) That the report be noted.
 - (ii) That the interview panel for the appointment of Independent Persons be:
Chair (or Vice-Chair if Chair not available)
Parish Councillor Crawford
Mrs Bainton or Mr Dixon
Monitoring Officer in an advisory capacity

- REASONS:
- (i) To ensure that Members are kept updated on the implementation of the new arrangements.
 - (ii) To progress the appointment of the Independent Persons.

Action Required

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| 1. Email committee members with details | AD |
| 2. Circulate details of training session | JC |

8. COMPLAINTS MONITORING

Members considered a report that provided information regarding the processing of complaints that Members of the City or Parish Councils may have breached the Code of Conduct.

It was noted that when complaints were received the initial assessment decision generally fell to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the independent persons. In order to allow Members to have proper oversight of the decisions being made it was therefore intended that regular monitoring reports would be presented to the Committee. Members were asked to consider the format in which they would wish to receive this information.

Discussion took place as to whether or not the data should be made anonymous. Concerns were expressed about the appropriateness of naming a Member if the complaint proved to

be malicious or unfounded. Views were also put forward that making public the name of the Member concerned was one of the few sanctions available if a complaint was upheld. It would also ensure effective scrutiny of the decisions that had been taken. It was agreed that a way forward would be for the Member to be named if the complaint was upheld but that the Member would not be named if the complaint was dismissed unless the Committee requested this information.

It was agreed that a protocol on the handling of complaints should be established. The Monitoring Officer was asked to draft a protocol and circulate this for consideration prior to the next meeting. It was also agreed that decision notices would be emailed to Committee Members to demonstrate the format that was currently in use¹.

RESOLVED: (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That, at the next meeting, consideration be given to a protocol for the handling of complaints that Members of the City or Parish Councils may have breached the Code of Conduct.

REASON: To ensure that effective arrangements are in place to enable Members to monitor complaints.

Action Required

1. Circulate draft protocol and decision notices

AD

9. WORK PLAN

Members were asked to consider a work plan for the year.

It was agreed that the following items would be considered at future meetings:

- Review of new Code of Conduct
- Registering of interests
- Protocol for the handling of complaints and review of assessment criteria
- Quarterly report on complaints
- Dispensations
- Planning Code of Practice
- Review of the Member/Officer Protocol

RESOLVED: That the items listed above be included in the Committee's Work Plan¹.

REASON: To ensure that the Committee has a planned programme of work in place.

Action Required

1. Put in place a work plan

AD

PART B - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

10. IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW STANDARDS ARRANGEMENTS

[See also Part A minute]

Members considered a report that provided information regarding progress with the implementation of the new standards arrangements by councils in York.

Independent Persons

An update was given on the appointment of the Independent Persons. Four applications had been received to date. Consideration was given to the interview arrangements. It was the intention that the interview panel's recommendation would be considered by Council at its meeting on 11 October 2012.

RECOMMEND: That Council be invited to make the recommended appointments.

REASON: To ensure that the requirements of section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 are met.

Councillor Runciman, Chair

[The meeting started at 3.00 pm and finished at 4.10 pm].