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MEETING	JOINT STANDARDS COMMITTEE - SUB-COMMITTEE
DATE	2 AUGUST 2012
PRESENT	COUNCILLOR BARTON (CYC COUNCILLOR) COUNCILLOR CRAWFORD (PARISH COUNCILLOR) COUNCILLOR TAYLOR (CYC COUNCILLOR)

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### **3. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

RESOLVED: That Councillor Taylor be appointed as Chair of the meeting.

### **4. 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.

### **5. COMPLAINTS AGAINST MEMBER OF CITY OF YORK COUNCIL**

Consideration was given to two complaints against a Member of City of York Council. The complaints alleged that the subject Member may have failed to comply with the Code of Conduct which applies to Councillors of the City of York Council.

Having considered the evidence provided in support of the complaints, the sub-committee were of the view that further investigation was not required and

RESOLVED: (i) That there had been a prima facie breach of the obligation to treat others with respect contained in Paragraph 3.1 of the Code.

(ii) That the Monitoring Officer be requested to write to the subject Member advising him as to the Sub-Committee's view of his conduct.

- (iii) That the investigation that was currently being undertaken in respect of one of the complainants had not been compromised and should continue as planned.
- (iv) That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that the minutes of the meeting referred to in the complaints should omit the reference to one of the complainants and include only the part of the response related to the questions that had been submitted.
- (v) That a protocol in respect of behaviours expected during the course of a complaint being considered not be put in place at this time but that Members be expected to comply with sub-judice principles whilst investigations were ongoing.

REASONS:

- (i) The comments made had gone beyond what might reasonably be expected in the context of robust political discussion. They were not related to the questions that had been submitted and the fact that they had been made in writing was evidence of an intention to be disrespectful.
- (ii) To ensure that the subject Member was aware of the sub-committee's views of his conduct.
- (iii) There was no evidence that Members or officers involved in the process had been compromised.
- (iv) To ensure that the disrespect shown to one of the complainants was not exacerbated by being included in a document that would be in the public domain.

- (v) A review of the complaints process is due to take place in six months time and hence consideration of a protocol could take place at that time if appropriate. The application of sub-judice principles ensured that the Council and individual Members were not damaged by unfounded complaints being made public.

Councillor Taylor, Chair

[The meeting started at 4.00 pm and finished at 4.20 pm].