

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK

STANDARDS COMMITTEE – LOCAL ASSESSMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the Local Assessment Sub-Committee
held on Tuesday 20th March 2012,
at 11.45 am in Meeting Room 7, King's Court,
Chapel Street, King's Lynn**

PRESENT:

Mr M Sale (Chairman – Independent Member)
Mr R Steward (Independent Member)
Mr D Shepperson (Parish Representative)

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Nicola Leader - Monitoring Officer
Rachael Edwards - Senior Democratic Services Officer

1. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED "That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act."

2. Declaration of Interests

There were none.

3. Urgent Business

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Monitoring Officer explained that since the publication of the Agenda she had received an additional four complaints of a similar nature and proposed that consideration be given to these in conjunction with complaint reference 27/11.

However, she highlighted in relation to two of the complaints, the complainants had requested that their name and/or details of their complaint be withheld. The Sub-Committee determined that the request for confidentiality in this instance, should not be granted and asked the Monitoring Officer to contact the complainants to ascertain if they still wished to proceed with their complaints. (It has subsequently been confirmed that the complaints have been withdrawn).

In relation to complaint reference 28/11 which related to two separate allegations, the complainant had also indicated that they wished their

details to be withheld. The Sub-Committee determined again that the request for confidentiality should not be granted and asked the Monitoring Officer to contact the complainant. The complainant had subsequently confirmed that they wished to proceed with allegation one but wished to withdraw their complaint with regard to allegation two.

4. **To consider the reports of the Monitoring Officer (Complaints 25/11 26/11, 27/11, 28/11, 29/11 and 30/11)**

The Sub-Committee considered the Monitoring Officer's reports, subsequent complaints and verbal update. The purpose of the Sub-Committee was to consider the complaints against the assessment criteria agreed by the Standards Committee on 23 June 2008 and to reach one of the three following decisions:

- Refer the allegation to the Monitoring Officer which under section 57A(3) of the Local Government Act 2000, as amended, may be another authority – for investigation or some other action such as mediation or training.
- Refer the allegation to Standards for England.
- Decide that no action should be taken in respect of the allegation.

The Sub-Committee considered the complaints against the criteria agreed by the Standards Committee at their meeting on 23 June 2008.

DECISION

Complaint 25/11

The Sub-Committee decided that no action should be taken in respect of the allegation.

Complaint 26/11

The Sub-Committee decided that no action should be taken in respect of the allegation.

Complaint 27/11

The Sub-Committee referred the allegation to the Monitoring Officer for investigation under Section 57A(2) of the Local Government Act 2000.

Complaint 28/11

The Sub-Committee referred the allegation to the Monitoring Officer for investigation under Section 57A(2) of the Local Government Act 2000.

Complaint 29/11

The Sub-Committee referred the allegation to the Monitoring Officer for investigation under Section 57A(2) of the Local Government Act 2000.

Complaint 30/11

The Sub-Committee referred the allegation to the Monitoring Officer for investigation under Section 57A(2) of the Local Government Act 2000.

The Meeting closed at 12.20pm