

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Standards Committee held on
Wednesday 15 June 2011 at 10.30 am, in The Committee Suite,
King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn**

PRESENT:

Mr M Sale (Chairman - Independent Member),
Mr G Brierley (Independent Member), Mr J Dawson (Parish Representative),
Mr E Langford (Parish Representative), Mr D Shepperson (Parish Representative),
Mr R Steward (Independent Member),
Councillors B Ayres, R Bird, D Johnson and G Wareham
Nicola Leader (Legal Services Manager/Monitoring Officer)
Wendy Vincent (Democratic Services Officer)

1 INTRODUCTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR MEMBERS

At the invitation of the Chairman, those present introduced themselves.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor D Harwood.

3 MINUTES

The Minutes of the following meetings were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Standards Committee – Panel Hearing

15 December 2010 (Complaint 23/10)

Full Standards Committee

15 December 2010

Standards Committee – Local Assessment Sub-Committee

18 February 2011 (Complaint 01/11)

24 March 2011 (Complaints 02/11 and 03/11)

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

5 PROGRESS, TIMETABLE AND IMPACT OF LOCALISM BILL

The Monitoring Officer provided a verbal update on the changes announced in the Localism Bill laid before Parliament on 13 December 2010, which included the timetable for the Bill to gain Royal Assent and process for

implementation. Members were invited to take a copy of a briefing note the Monitoring Officer had prepared for information after the meeting.

In response to questions, the Monitoring Officer advised that the Localism Bill would give local authorities the general power of competence and would allow Councils to operate the committee system of governance, if they so wished. The Monitoring Officer added that the Standards Board would only form one element of the Localism Bill and would be considered as part of the debate. At present it was not known what the current standards regime would be replaced by, but it was anticipated that there would be some form of mechanism to monitor and maintain standards at local level.

RESOLVED: That the progress report be noted.

6 UPDATE ON PROGRESS WITH CURRENT COMPLAINTS

The Monitoring Officer provided a verbal update and advised the Committee that four complaints had been received in the current year.

The Local Assessment Sub-Committee determined that two complaints warranted no further action.

A meeting of the Local Assessment Sub-Committee would be held on 6 July to consider the other two complaints received.

RESOLVED: That the update report be noted.

7 FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS

This item was discussed under item 5 above.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING OF THE FULL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the next meeting of the Full Standards Committee would take place on **Wednesday 16 November 2011 at 10.30 am** in Meeting Rooms 1, 2 and 3.

The Meeting closed at 10.58 am