

**BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE – LOCAL ASSESSMENT SUB-COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the Local Assessment Sub-Committee  
held on Friday 7 October 2011,  
at 10.30 am in Meeting Room 3, Ground Floor, 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  
Wendy Vincent - 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**

Members declared that a number of complaints under consideration were against a Parish Councillor who was also a member of the Borough Council's Standards Committee. They confirmed that they had no close association with the Councillor and had only met him in connection with business conducted by the Standards Committee. The Monitoring Officer confirmed that she had consulted with Standards for England on this issue in the past and had been advised that unless a close association existed there was no bar to Members dealing with allegations about Councillors who also served on the Standards Committee.

**3. To consider the reports of the Monitoring Officer (Complaints 06/11, 7/11, 8/11, 9/11, 10/11, 11/11)**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Sub-Committee considered the Monitoring Officer's reports. The purpose of the Sub-Committee was to consider the complaint 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 06/11

#### **Allegation 1:**

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

#### **Allegation 2:**

The Local Assessment Sub-Committee determined that no formal action should be taken at this stage pending the Monitoring Officer reporting back to the Assessment Sub-Committee on whether or not there was authority from the Parish Council to commission the letter.

#### **Allegation 3:**

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

#### **Allegation 4:**

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

### Complaint 07/11

The Local Assessment Sub-Committee determined that no formal action should be taken, but that the Monitoring Officer would write to the Councillor reminding him of the standards to be adhered to when undertaking the role of a Parish Councillor.

### Complaint 08/11

The Local Assessment Sub-Committee determined that no formal action should be taken, but that the Monitoring Officer would write to the Councillor reminding him of the standards to be adhered to when undertaking the role of a Parish Councillor.

Complaint 09/11

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

Complaint 10/11

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

Complaint 11/11

The Sub-Committee referred the allegation (11/11) to the Monitoring Officer for investigation under Section 57A(3) of the Local Government Act 2000.

**The Meeting closed at 11.37 am**