

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS,
HERTFORD ON TUESDAY 30 JUNE 2015,
AT 2.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor B Deering (Chairman)
Councillors G McAndrew and C Woodward

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors A Alder, D Andrews and
A McNeece

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Simon Drinkwater	- Director of Neighbourhood Services
Jeff Hughes	- Head of Democratic and Legal Support Services

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Philip Copland	- Independent Person
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1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED – that Councillor B Deering be appointed
Chairman for this meeting of the Standards Sub-
Committee.

2 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the meeting of the
Standards Sub-Committee held on 30 March 2015 be
confirmed as a correct record and signed by the
Chairman.

3 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Sub-Committee considered whether or not to pass a resolution to exclude the press and public from the meeting during the discussion of the items recorded at Minutes 4 to 10 below on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in provisions of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Sub-Committee also considered whether or not to make the associated reports publically available.

The Sub-Committee determined to exclude the press and public from the meeting during the discussion of the matters at Minutes 4 to 10 below and not to make the associated the reports publically available.

RESOLVED – that (A) under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the business recorded at Minutes 4 to 10 below on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said act, and

(B) the reports associated with the business recorded in Minutes 4 to 10 below, be not made public by virtue of paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

(Note: Councillors Alder, Andrews and McNeece left the Chamber prior to consideration of the matters recorded at Minutes 4 to 10 below.)

4 COMPLAINT IN RESPECT OF FORMER COUNCILLOR M ALEXANDER

The Sub-Committee considered a complaint against (former) Councillor M Alexander alleging that he had breached the

Authority's Code of Conduct.

The Sub-Committee noted the detail of the complaint and the evidence submitted by the complainant to support their allegation.

The Monitoring Officer confirmed that, having consulted the Independent Person, he did not consider the complaint could be resolved informally.

The Monitoring Officer invited the Sub-Committee to consider the complaint against the (published) assessment criteria of the Authority's Complaints Procedure.

The Monitoring Officer and Acting Chief Executive left the Chamber whilst the Sub-Committee came to a determination on the complaint.

The Sub-Committee, after careful consideration of the complaint in consultation with the Independent Person and taking into account the Council's assessment criteria, agreed that no further action be taken as it related to someone who was no longer a member of the Authority and reasons for the alleged breach of the Code of Conduct were not sufficiently made clear.

RESOLVED – that, after careful consideration of the complaint in consultation with the Independent Person and taking into account the Council's assessment criteria, no further action be taken as it related to someone (M Alexander) who was no longer a member of the Authority and reasons for the alleged breach of the Code of Conduct were not sufficiently made clear.

5 COMPLAINT IN RESPECT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR D ANDREWS

The Sub-Committee considered a complaint against Councillor D Andrews alleging that he had breached the Authority's Code of Conduct.

The Sub-Committee noted the detail of the complaint and the evidence submitted by the complainant to support their allegation.

The Monitoring Officer confirmed that, having consulted the Independent Person, he did not consider the complaint could be resolved informally.

The Monitoring Officer invited the Sub-Committee to consider the complaint against the (published) assessment criteria of the Authority's Complaints Procedure.

The Monitoring Officer and Acting Chief Executive left the Chamber whilst the Sub-Committee came to a determination on the complaint.

The Sub-Committee, after careful consideration of the complaint in consultation with the Independent Person and taking into account the Council's assessment criteria, agreed that no further action be taken as it was not considered sufficiently serious to warrant investigation, particularly as any comments made at a meeting on 4 June 2014 were invited by the Chairman and were not material to the decision referred to by the complainant.

RESOLVED – that, after careful consideration of the complaint in consultation with the Independent Person and taking into account the Council's assessment criteria, no further action be taken as it was not considered sufficiently serious to warrant investigation, particularly as any comments made at a meeting on 4 June 2014 were invited by the Chairman and were not material to the decision referred to by the complainant.

6 COMPLAINT IN RESPECT OF FORMER DISTRICT COUNCILLOR M CARVER

The Sub-Committee considered a complaint against (former) Councillor M Carver alleging that he had breached the Authority's Code of Conduct.

The Sub-Committee noted the detail of the complaint and the evidence submitted by the complainant to support their allegation.

The Monitoring Officer confirmed that, having consulted the Independent Person, he did not consider the complaint could be resolved informally.

The Monitoring Officer invited the Sub-Committee to consider the complaint against the (published) assessment criteria of the Authority's Complaints Procedure.

The Monitoring Officer and Acting Chief Executive left the Chamber whilst the Sub-Committee came to a determination on the complaint.

The Sub-Committee, after careful consideration of the complaint in consultation with the Independent Person and taking into account the Council's assessment criteria, agreed that no further action be taken as it related to someone who was no longer a member of the Authority and the grounds of the alleged breach of the Code had not been established.

RESOLVED – that, after careful consideration of the complaint in consultation with the Independent Person and taking into account the Council's assessment criteria, no further action be taken as it related to someone (M Carver) who was no longer a member of the Authority and the grounds of the alleged breach of the Code had not been established.

7 COMPLAINT IN RESPECT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR K CROFTON

The Sub-Committee considered a complaint against Councillor K Crofton alleging that he had breached the Authority's Code of Conduct.

The Sub-Committee noted the detail of the complaint and the evidence submitted by the complainant to support their allegation.

The Monitoring Officer confirmed that, having consulted the Independent Person, he did not consider the complaint could be resolved informally.

The Monitoring Officer invited the Sub-Committee to consider the complaint against the (published) assessment criteria of the Authority's Complaints Procedure.

The Monitoring Officer and Acting Chief Executive left the Chamber whilst the Sub-Committee came to a determination on the complaint.

The Sub-Committee agreed that consideration of the complaint be deferred to allow the Monitoring Officer to invite the complainant to particularise the element of the allegation now detailed as soon as possible.

RESOLVED – that, consideration of the complaint be deferred to allow the Monitoring Officer to invite the complainant to particularise the element of the allegation now detailed as soon as possible.

8 COMPLAINT IN RESPECT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR J JONES

The Sub-Committee considered a complaint against Councillor J Jones alleging that he had breached the Authority's Code of Conduct.

The Sub-Committee noted the detail of the complaint and the evidence submitted by the complainant to support their allegation.

The Monitoring Officer invited the Sub-Committee to consider the complaint against the (published) assessment criteria of the Authority's Complaints Procedure.

The Monitoring Officer and Acting Chief Executive left the Chamber whilst the Sub-Committee came to a determination on the complaint.

The Sub-Committee, after careful consideration of the complaint in consultation with the Independent Person and taking into account the Council's assessment criteria and the approved process for dealing with complaints, agreed to request the Monitoring Officer to secure an informal resolution on the basis now detailed.

RESOLVED – that, after careful consideration of the complaint in consultation with the Independent Person and taking into account the Council's assessment criteria and the approved process for dealing with complaints, the Monitoring Officer be requested to secure an informal resolution on the basis now detailed.

9 COMPLAINT IN RESPECT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR
P MOORE

The Sub-Committee considered a complaint against Councillor P Moore alleging that she had breached the Authority's Code of Conduct.

The Sub-Committee noted the detail of the complaint and the evidence submitted by the complainant to support their allegation.

The Monitoring Officer confirmed that, having consulted the Independent Person, he did not consider the complaint could be resolved informally.

The Monitoring Officer invited the Sub-Committee to consider the complaint against the (published) assessment criteria of the Authority's Complaints Procedure.

The Monitoring Officer and Acting Chief Executive left the Chamber whilst the Sub-Committee came to a determination on the complaint.

The Sub-Committee, after careful consideration of the complaint in consultation with the Independent Person and

taking into account the Council's assessment criteria, agreed that no further action be taken as it was not considered sufficiently serious to warrant investigation.

RESOLVED – that, after careful consideration of the complaint in consultation with the Independent Person and taking into account the Council's assessment criteria, no further action be taken as it was not considered sufficiently serious to warrant investigation.

10 COMPLAINT IN RESPECT OF FORMER DISTRICT COUNCILLOR M NEWMAN

The Sub-Committee considered a complaint against (former) Councillor M Newman alleging that he had breached the Authority's Code of Conduct.

The Sub-Committee noted the detail of the complaint and the evidence submitted by the complainant to support their allegation.

The Monitoring Officer confirmed that, having consulted the Independent Person, he did not consider the complaint could be resolved informally.

The Monitoring Officer invited the Sub-Committee to consider the complaint against the (published) assessment criteria of the Authority's Complaints Procedure.

The Monitoring Officer and Acting Chief Executive left the Chamber whilst the Sub-Committee came to a determination on the complaint.

The Sub-Committee, after careful consideration of the complaint in consultation with the Independent Person and taking into account the Council's assessment criteria and the approved process for dealing with complaints agreed that no further action be taken as it related to someone who was no longer a member of the Authority.

The Sub-Committee further agreed that the Monitoring Officer

be requested to write to the former member on the basis now detailed.

RESOLVED – that (A) after careful consideration of the complaint in consultation with the Independent Person and taking into account the Council’s assessment criteria and the approved process for dealing with complaints, no further action be taken as it related to someone (M Newman) who was no longer a member of the Authority, and

(B) the Monitoring Officer be requested to write to the former member on the basis now detailed.

The meeting closed at 4.25 pm

Chairman
Date