

PRESENT: MR J KRAWIEC (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors D R Dickinson, N I Jackson and R Sellars

Mr J A Hanna

Also in attendance: Councillors C E H Marfleet, David O'Connor, Executive Director for Performance and Governance and Rachel Wilson, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H R Johnson and Mrs M J Overton, Mr R A Daff, Mrs C A Lloyd and Mr S J Williams.

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at this point in the meeting.

31. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2011

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January, 2011 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

32. FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A STANDARDS REGIME FOR LINCOLNSHIRE

The Members of the Standards Committee received a verbal update from the Executive Director for Performance and Governance, who reported that pursuant to minute number 23, he had attended a meeting with the Leader of the Council, Councillor H Marfleet, and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Standards Committee also in attendance. The meeting was well received and it was agreed to hold a workshop session for the Members of the Standards Committee regarding the future arrangements for a standards regime in Lincolnshire, and this had taken place on the morning of 18 April, 2011.

It was noted that there was a lot of good guidance already in existence, and it was not considered necessary to write completely new guidance, but instead to produce a short and succinct code of conduct which would be backed up with support from officers.

During the workshop session, the Register of Members' Interests was also considered in terms of how the council could support Members to make it as accurate and transparent as possible. It was suggested that the Members Interest forms should be drafted in plain English and the authority would seek to gain a Plain English Crystal Mark for this. It was also planned to make the forms more specific and easier to complete.

The Executive Director for Performance and Governance had been asked by the Committee to progress the piece of work relating to the Register of Interests and also

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to work with district colleagues to look into the possibility of establishing a countywide code of conduct.

RESOLVED

That the Executive Director for Performance and Governance:

1. Undertake a piece of work to redraft the Members Interest forms in Plain English
2. To achieve a Plain English Crystal Mark for the Members Interest Forms
3. To work with district colleagues to explore the possibility of a countywide Code of Conduct

33. QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

34. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced that he would like to write to Mr A Daff on behalf of the Standards Committee to wish him a speedy recovery from his recent health problems.

35. OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS/UPDATES

The Chairman announced that he had given the subject of special responsibility allowances consideration and proposed that due to the reduced workload of the Standards Committee, the allowance for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman should be reduced.

RESOLVED

That the proposal for the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Standards Committee to have a reduced Special Responsibility Allowance be submitted to full council for consideration and approval.

36. WORK PROGRAMME 2010-2011

The main focus of the work for the Standards Committee would be the transitional arrangements for moving from a national code of conduct and standards regime, to the possible establishment of a more localised one for Lincolnshire.

37. URGENT ITEMS

It was reported that the terms of two of the independent members of the Standards Committee were due to expire in the coming months, and it was suggested that with the future of the Standards regime being uncertain, it was not sensible to look to recruit new independent members. However, it was within the remit of the Council to extend the term of independent members if required. Therefore, it was suggested that it be recommended to full council to extend the term of the two independent members whose term was due to end.

RESOLVED

That it be recommended to the next full council meeting that the terms of two of the independent members be extended.

38. ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Standards Committee would be held on Monday, 18 July 2011 at 2.00pm.

The meeting finished at 2.15pm