

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the STANDARDS COMMITTEE held in Civic Suite, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon PE29 3TN on Thursday, 25 June 2015.

PRESENT: Mr A Hansard - Chairman
Councillors Mrs L A Duffy, D A Giles and J E White

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of K M Baker, Mrs B E Boddington, R Harrison and M F Shellens

14. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 26th June 2014 and 20th May 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

15. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were received.

16. STATUTORY DISMISSAL PROCEDURES FOR HEADS OF PAID SERVICE, MONITORING OFFICERS AND THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Committee received and noted a report by the LGSS HR Business Partner (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) on changes to the statutory disciplinary and dismissal procedures applying to English local authorities' heads of paid service, monitoring officers and chief financial officers. Having received clarification that the independent persons who were required to sit on the panel when dismissal of any of the Officers was being considered would be those who had been appointed under the Localism Act to advise on standards issues and that these independent persons were distinct from the previous Designated Independent Person, it was

RESOLVED

that the Council be recommended to approve the amended statutory dismissal procedures and Disciplinary Policy

17. UPDATE ON CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS

The Deputy Monitoring Officer informed the Committee that in the last year the Council's Monitoring Officer had received 16 complaints under the Code of Conduct. Of these, 15 had progressed and one had been cancelled. Members requested that details of the split between parish and district complaints. The Deputy Monitoring Officer agreed to circulate this information directly to Members outside of the

meeting.

18. REVIEW OF COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

With the aid of a report by the Deputy Monitoring Officer (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book), the Committee was updated on progress of the review of the Council's Constitution. An external firm of Solicitors, Bevan Brittan, had been appointed to carry out the review. Their initial assessment was noted by Members.

A Member working group was to be established to oversee the process. In response to a question by Councillor J White, it was reported that it was likely the review would be concluded later in the year.

19. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION

Pursuant to Minute No. 14/7, consideration was given to a report by the Monitoring Officer (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) seeking a dispensation for Councillor Mrs P A Jordan. The dispensation would allow her, as an employee within the NHS, to speak and vote at meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) when business relating to the NHS arose. A similar dispensation had been granted to Councillor Mrs Jordan during her previous term of office and, having been re-elected, a renewal of the dispensation was being sought.

Having been reminded of the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in relation to dispensations, it was

RESOLVED

that a dispensation be granted to Councillor Mrs P A Jordan until 30th April 2019 to speak and vote on matters coming before the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) connected with NHS issues other than those affecting her own personal terms and conditions of employment and matters which impact upon her directly as an employee.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the next meeting of the Committee was scheduled to take place on 10th September 2015 at 4.00pm in the Civic Suite, Pathfinder House, Huntingdon.

Chairman