

## **Standards Sub-Committee**

**16 March 2015**

Present: Councillor C Johnson (Chair)  
Councillors S Graham and P Mason

Also Present: Mr D Cooper, Eversheds LLP, Investigating Officer  
Mr G Clark, North Tyneside Council Independent Person  
Ms S Gardner, North Tyneside Council Independent Person

### **SSC14/03/15      Apologies**

There were no apologies submitted.

### **SSC15/03/15      Appointment of Substitute Members**

No appointment of substitutes were reported.

### **SSC16/03/15      Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

There were no declarations of interest reported.

There were no dispensations in relation to registerable personal interests reported.

### **SSC17/03/15      Exclusion Resolution**

**Resolved** that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and having applied a public interest test as defined in Part 2 of Schedule 12A of the Act, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

### **SSC18/03/2015      Code of Conduct for Members – Complaint NT06/2014**

The Standards Sub-Committee received a report which presented the Investigating Officer's completed investigation into Complaint NT06/2014.

The Authority's Local Arrangements for the consideration of complaints made against Members under the Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members at Appendix A to the report, required that a completed investigation report be received by the Standards Sub-Committee to determine the action to be taken with respect to the Complaint.

The report of the Investigating Officer into Complaint NT06/2014 was attached at Appendix B to the report. The Investigating Officer had found in his report that no breach of the Code of Conduct has occurred in relation to this Complaint.

## Standards Sub-Committee

The Sub-Committee reviewed the Investigating Officer's report and his conclusion that the Member concerned had not breached the Code of Conduct and determined on the balance of probabilities there was insufficient evidence of the subject member's failure to comply with the Code of Conduct for Members. As a result no further formal action would be taken with respect to this complaint and the matter be concluded.

In its deliberations the Sub-Committee noted that the Member concerned had been sent by the Authority email notifications of the proposals relating to subject matter. The Sub-Committee considered that as a matter of good practice and particularly in relation to emails from the Authority to its Members, such emails should be opened promptly and attended to. The Sub-Committee requested that the subject Member be reminded to open all emails from the Authority as a matter of priority.

In addition, the Sub-Committee requested that training on the use of computers and in particular the use of email should be offered to the subject Member.

**Resolved** that (1) the findings of the Investigating Officer that no breach of the Code of Conduct had occurred be accepted; and  
(2) the Monitoring Officer be instructed to write to the complainant and the subject member in Complaint NT06/2014 to notify them both that the Sub-Committee is satisfied no further formal action is required and to provide both with a copy of the Investigating Officer's final report.