

Standards Committee

9 June 2016

Present: Councillor C Johnson (Chair)
Councillors J Allan, A Arkle, P Earley, S Graham,
E Hodson, F Lott, K Osborne and B Pickard.

SC01/06/16 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Mason, L Spillard and Mrs S Gardner (Independent Person).

SC02/06/16 Appointment of Substitute Members

Pursuant to the Council's Constitution, the appointment of the following substitute members was reported:

Councillor E Hodson for Councillor P Mason.
Councillor S Graham for Councillor L Spillard.

SC03/06/16 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations in relation to registerable personal interests reported.

SC04/06/16 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 3 March 2016 be confirmed.

SC05/06/16 Action Plan and Work Programme 2016/17

A report was received from the Head of Law and Governance which introduced the proposed Action Plan/Work Programme of the Standards Committee up to 31 March 2017.

The Standards Committee was responsible for the Authority's statutory duty for promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by elected Members and co-opted Members of the Council.

Members were requested to consider the proposed tasks and matters that would be undertaken by the Committee as set out in the report and to determine the Action Plan/Work Programme for 2016/17.

The Action Plan/Work Programme would be monitored by the Committee at each meeting and the progress of the identified actions would be reported in the Committee's Annual Report at the end of the municipal year in May 2017.

The Head of Law and Governance informed the Committee that the Regional training for Members of Standards Committees and Independent Persons which was a matter on the

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Committee's work programme in 2015/16 and proposed to be carried over in to the current year's work programme. Newcastle City Council had been coordinating the arrangements for a regional training session which was due to take place on Tuesday 26 July 2016 at the Civic Centre, Newcastle. The intention was to run a half day session to include a number of topics with scenarios built in to promote discussion in a workshop forum and to deliver one of the Committee's work programme objectives.

It was noted that a report on the Member Development Programme would be presented to the next meeting of the Standards Committee. Specific training would be provided to ensure that the Authority's Independent Persons understand their role in relation to ethical governance and the Code of Conduct for Members as well as their new role in relation to the disciplinary procedures for Statutory Officers. Reference was also made to an additional training opportunity for Overview and Scrutiny Members with a view to include this in the member development programme following consultation with the Members Support Group and consideration by the Standards Committee.

Resolved that the Standards Committee Action Plan/Work Programme for the 2016/17 Municipal Year be agreed.

SC06/06/16 Dates and Time of Meetings

A report was received which requested the Standards Committee to consider and confirm the dates and commencement time for the remainder of its meetings in the 2016/17 Municipal Year.

At the 19 May 2016 Annual Council meeting the timetable of committee meetings for 2016/17 was received and it was agreed that each committee, at its first meeting in the new municipal year, would determine its own commencement time and confirm its meeting dates for the year ahead.

Resolved that the Standards Committee scheduled meetings for the remainder of the 2016/17 municipal year commencing at 4.00pm, be confirmed.

[1 September 2016; 1 December 2016 and 2 March 2017]