

<b>Minutes of:</b>	<b>STANDARDS COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	9 February 2012
<b>Present:</b>	Councillors K Audin, R Brown and A Quinn
<b>Independent Members:</b>	A Brown (in the Chair) and D Gremson
<b>Apologies:</b>	Councillors A Audin, M D'Albert, J Taylor and J F Walton; Mr K Wainwright and Mr A Withington
<b>Public Attendance:</b>	There was one member of the public in attendance at the meeting.

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### **S.603 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

### **S.604 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Councillor R E Walker asked the Committee to consider the action by the Leader of the Council and other Councillors participating in or supporting strike action on 30 November 2011, and whether this was appropriate in terms of public and staff "perception".

Councillor Walker was informed that the Committee could only consider complaints against named Councillors, which would then be pursued through the local filtering procedures.

### **S.605 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

#### **Delegated decision:**

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 14 November 2011 be approved and signed a correct record.

### **S.606 THE LOCALISM ACT 2011 – THE AMENDED STANDARDS REGIME**

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report which set out changes to the system of regulation of standards and put forward options for consideration, in order to implement the changes.

The issues to be addressed by the Council were:-

- § Whether to establish a Standards Committee and if so, to determine its composition.

- § To determine what should be included in the Code of Conduct.
- § To decide what arrangements should be adopted for dealing with Standards complaints and for taking action where a Member is found to have failed to comply with the Code of Conduct.
- § To determine arrangements for recruiting an "Independent Person" in a way which ensures cover at all times.
- § To determine the form and nature of a new register of Members interests.
- § To determine which standing orders should be adopted by the Council in respect of withdrawal from meetings for interests.
- § To determine what arrangements would be appropriate for granting dispensations.

Mr Gremson was of the view that any new procedures should specify that complaints which are trivial, vexatious or politically motivated would not be considered.

Members felt that the Committee should consider the Monitoring Officer's report in depth so that firm recommendations could be put forward.

**Delegated decisions:**

1. That a further meeting of this Committee take place in March 2012 to make firm recommendations to Council on revised Standards arrangements.
2. That a copy of this report be forwarded to all Members of the Council.

**S.607 STANDARDS ISSUES**

There were no issues raised under this item.

**A BROWN**  
**Chair**

**(Note: The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 7.35 pm)**