

Minutes of a meeting of the **STANDARDS PANEL** held in the Meeting Room 1, Council Offices, Priory Road, on Tuesday, 12 April 2016 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT

G R Aley (Chairman)
R Clark (Vice-Chairman)

M G Chandler

P C Foyster

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Alcock and J L King

In Attendance: Independent Person, Executive Manager – Governance, Principal Democratic Services Officer and Democratic Services Officer.

10) **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

11) **MINUTES**

The panel considered the minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2015.

DECISION:

The minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

12) **STANDARDS ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16**

The panel received a report by the Executive Manager - Governance that set out the work undertaken since the previous Annual Report in April 2015.

It was highlighted to the panel that the figure within the report table 2013/14 under complaints received should read 13 rather than 1.

The panel noted that 6 complaints in 2013/14 had been forwarded to the Police and it was explained that whenever there was a suggestion that a Councillor had not registered a disclosable pecuniary interest it was automatically referred to the Police.

Members discussed with Tony Wicks, the Independent Person issues regarding the use of social media. Tony Wicks enquired what was already in place and it was agreed that Mark Stinson would make enquiries into social media training and council policy.

The panel discussed how complaints were managed. Mark Stinson reported that he would be undertaking a review of the complaints procedure to address difficulties in certain steps in the process, especially in respect of seeking local settlement where there were more than one complainant in the same complaint, or where legal proceedings were also being pursued by one of the parties.

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AGREED:

- a) That the Standards Annual Report 2015/16 is noted;
- b) Amanda Taylor, Democratic Services Officer – to make enquiries into social media training for members for the Social Media Policy to be reviewed and a report made back to the chairman of the Standards Panel.

13) **ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.**

There were no urgent items.

(The meeting ended at 6.50 pm)

(End of minutes)