

Standards Committee

A meeting of Standards Committee was held on Friday, 21st May, 2010.

Present: Mr F W Hayes(Chairman), Mr M Armstrong(Vice-Chair), Cllr Paul Baker, Mr C.V Algie(Parish Representative), Mr T Bowman(Parish Representative), Cllr Terry Laing(Vice Cllr Sherris), Roger Mosley(Substitute Parish Representative)

Officers: A Barber(RES), D.E Bond, A Squires, K Wannop(LD)

Also in attendance: None

Apologies: Mrs E Chapman, Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Bill Noble, Cllr Andrew Sherris, Cllr John Fletcher(Substitute Elected Member), Mr C Nestor(Substitute Independent)

S Declarations of Interest

14/10

Tom Bowman declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in the item entitled - Attendance at Town/Parish Council Meeting as a member of Ingleby Barwick Town Council.

S Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th February 2010 and 12th March 2010

15/10

The minutes of the meetings held on 12th February 2010 and 12th March 2010 were signed by the Chair as a correct record.

S Internal Audit Quartley/Annual Report

16/10

The Committee considered a report advising Standards Committee Members of the work carried out by the Internal Audit Section in one audit within the remit of the Committee during the quarter January - March 2010. Members also considered the Internal Audit Annual Report 2009-2010.

Members were reminded that Internal Audit was an independent appraisal function established by the Council to objectively examine, evaluate and report on the adequacy of internal controls. This role ensured that there was proper economic, efficient and effective use of resources. It also ensured that the Council had adequate accounting records and control systems.

The Senior Audit Manager presented the Committee with details of an adhoc audit relating to Anti Fraud Management.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

S Attendance at Town/Parish Council Meetings

17/10

The Committee considered a report that provided an opportunity for Members' to give feedback on their attendance at Town/Parish Council Meetings in the Borough.

Ingleby Barwick Town Council - 21st April 2010 - attended by Francis Hayes.

Members received assessment sheets from the above attended meeting and feedback was agreed to be provided to the relevant clerk.

RESOLVED that

1. The information be received
2. Feedback, as discussed, be provided to the relevant Clerk.
3. Members inform the Councils Monitoring Officer of outstanding meeting dates which they could attend.

S
18/10 **Observing Local Strategic Partnership Meetings**

The Committee was made aware that there were no assessment sheets to consider at this meeting but were asked to contact the Monitoring Officer to confirm any outstanding meeting of Stockton Renaissance which they could attend, Members were made aware that the Stockton Renaissance meeting scheduled for 8th June 2010 was cancelled.

RESOLVED that Members inform the Councils Monitoring Officer of any Stockton Renaissance meeting dates which they could attend.

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19/10 **Messages from the Standards Committee**

Members considered a report that provided details of messages from the Committee which have been publicised since the most recent meeting. At the Standards Committee meeting on 12 February 2010 it was agreed that a programme of messages from the Committee should be implemented in accordance with the arrangements outlined in the report. The Committee was provided with a copy of a message which had been publicised. This related to the code of conduct complaints process. The message had been published on the council's website; circulated to council receptions, libraries, community centres, Tees Active, Tristar and to Town/Parish Councils. Further messages would be publicised over the coming months and details would be reported to the next available Committee meeting.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

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20/10 **Local Assessment - Case Studies**

Members considered a case study and discussed what decisions they would make.

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21/10 **Information/Discussion Items**

Members of the Committee considered the following items :-

1. Audit Committee Work Programme 2010/11
2. Monitoring Officer's Annual Report 2009/10
3. Standards Committee's Annual Report 2009/10
4. Standards Committee's Annual Return 2010

5. LGC Awards 2010 – Standards and Ethics
6. Blogging Quick Guide
7. Corporate Governance Group – Annual Report 2009/10
8. Local Government Ombudsman – Provisions Statistics 2009/10

Members were made aware with regard to items 2, 3 and 4 that they had been to Cabinet on 20th May 2010 and would then go to Council on 14th July 2010.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

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22/10

Standards Committee Forward Plan 2009/2011

Consideration was given to the updated version of the Standards Committee Forward Plan. Members were again asked to consider whether there were other matters which should be included in the programme for future meetings. Members also received the Council's Statutory Forward Plan.

RESOLVED that the Standards Committee Forward Plan and Statutory Forward Plan be noted/received.