

## **Standards Committee – 20 June 2019**

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Standards Committee** held on **20 June 2019** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr Mrs J E McPherson  
Vice-Chairman: Cllr Mrs J R Lumley

Cllr Mrs L A Butcher  
Cllr Mrs D Hoy

Cllr Mrs J R Gooding  
Cllr M J Lucas-Gill

### **INDEPENDENT PERSONS (INVITEES NON-VOTING)**

Mr P Scott  
Mr S Shadbolt

### **PARISH MEMBERS (CO-OPTED NON-VOTING)**

Cllr Mrs M Cohen  
Cllr Mrs D A Constable  
Cllr Miss A Marriott

### **VISITING MEMBER**

Cllr Mrs C A Weston

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs C M Mason and C M Stanley, and Mrs L Walker (Independent Person).

### **SUBSTITUTES**

Cllr A H Eves for Cllr Mrs C M Mason

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

M Power - Democratic Services Officer

### **122 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2019 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **123 MEMBER TRAINING WORKING GROUP**

- (1) Mr Shadbolt, Standards Committee Independent Person, updated the Committee on the outcome of a meeting that he and the Chairman of the Member Training Working Group, Cllr Mrs C M Mason, had attended with the Managing Director, following a recommendation by the Standards Committee on 27 March 2019 that internal officers who deliver training to Members be provided with appropriate presentation skills training. (The

Standards Committee had stressed that, although Council staff had extensive knowledge in their area of expertise, they did not necessarily have the skills needed to deliver training.) As a result of the meeting, the College of Public Speaking had been appointed to deliver training to officers involved in providing Member training.

Following discussion, Members felt that the level of success of this training would be demonstrated by the feedback received in the evaluation forms completed by Members following each training session.

The Chairman thanked the working group for the work they had done to achieve this successful outcome.

- (2) Cllr Mrs J E McPherson raised the issue of 'mop-up' sessions being provided for Members who had not been able to attend the scheduled Licensing training. She and Cllr Mrs C A Weston, Chairman of the Licensing and Appeals Committee, felt that mandatory training should not be substituted by a 'mop-up' session.

During discussion, the following points were made:-

- Only ten out of the 15 Members of the Committee had attended the scheduled training.
- Mop-up training that had been delivered in previous years had been truncated and had not included the detail/practical elements of the scheduled three-hour training session.
- Licensing is a quasi-judicial function of the Council, which makes it necessary for there to be mandatory Licensing training that is suitably detailed to equip Members with the skills and knowledge to fulfil their role on Licensing Sub-Committee hearings.
- Only one session of Licensing training is offered, during the day, due to both the cost of engaging a specialist trainer and the fact that Committee meetings and Sub-Committee hearings are held during the day. It was felt that Members who could not attend a daytime training session were unlikely to be able to attend Committee meetings or Sub-Committee hearings.
- As there is one session offered, the option of holding the training later in the day could be considered.
- A lack of trained Members had an impact on Licensing Sub-Committee hearings as the pool of Members available to sit on these hearings would be smaller.

- The opportunity for Members unable to attend the scheduled training to attend appropriate Licensing training provided by nearby local authorities could be explored.

The issue of Licensing training would be considered by the Member Training Working Group for referral back to the Standards Committee.

### (3) Membership of the Member Training Working Group.

Members considered the report of the Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic asking that the membership of the Member Training Working Group be determined for the 2019/20 municipal year.

It was noted that membership of the working group should be drawn from the Standards Committee where possible and should be across the Council's political groups and it was:-

### **Resolved**

That membership of the Member Training Working Group for the 2019/20 municipal year be agreed as follows: Cllr Mrs J R Lumley (Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee), Cllr M J Lucas-Gill, Cllr Mrs D Hoy, Cllr Mrs C M Mason and Cllr C S Stanley, with an Independent Person in an advisory capacity.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....

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