

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

*At a meeting of the Standards Committee Wednesday, 12 February 2020
The Boardroom - Municipal Building, Widnes*

Present: Councillors P. Lloyd Jones (Chair), M. Bradshaw, J. Lowe, Sinnott, Zygodllo and Mr A. Luxton (Independent Co-optee)

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Howard, Wharton and Felix (Parish Council Co-optee), Mrs Howard (Independent Person) and Professor Norman (Independent Person)

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Reaney and A. Scott

Also in attendance: One member of the press and two members of the public

ITEMS DEALT WITH UNDER DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE COMMITTEE

| | | <i>Action</i> |
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| STC1 | MINUTES | |
| | The minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2019, having been circulated, were signed as a correct record. | |
| STC2 | STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT | |
| | The Committee considered a report of the Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer, which summarised the work of the Committee in the last Municipal Year. | |
| | At the meeting in February 2019, Members had considered the Annual Report, which summarised the work of the Committee. There had been an update on issues that had arisen in other parts of the country, which provided an insight into the nature of matters raised and how they were dealt with elsewhere. | |
| | RESOLVED: That the report be noted and referred to Council for information. | Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services |

STC3 STANDARDS COMMITTEE UPDATE REPORT

The Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer provided the Committee with an update on issues which had arisen in other parts of the country, which provided an insight into the kind of issues faced and the manner in which they had been proceeded.

Details on recent cases were given from a range of locations which included the following:-

- Lewisham;
- Bournemouth;
- Isle of Wight;
- Hackney;
- Dudley; and
- Bromley.

Members discussed the impact and use of social media in connection with the role of the Elected Member. It was felt that it would be beneficial if Members were reminded that they should report any incidents of misconduct or abuse via social media accounts to the relevant authority.

A verbal update was given on a number of local matters that had been considered since the last meeting. It was reported that in three of the cases, the Committees' Independent Persons had been consulted. Additionally, it was noted that there were three 'live' matters ongoing, which were yet to be concluded, and that the outcome of these would be reported to the next meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

Meeting ended at 2.29 p.m.