NORWICH
City Council

MINUTES

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

10:05 to 10:45   **8 July 2016**

Present: Councillor Driver (in the chair following election),
                  Councillors Button, Manning and Sands (M), Mr P Franzen (co-opted
                  member) and Mr C Thrower (co-opted member)

Apologies   Councillors Bogelein and Grahame and Mr A Roy (independent
                 person)

1.   Appointment of chair

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Driver as chair for the ensuing civic year.

2.   Appointment of vice chair

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Sands (M) as vice chair for the ensuing civic year.

3.   Declaration of interests

There were no declarations of interest.

4.   Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on
17 July 2015..

5.   Annual report of the monitoring officer 2015

Rachel Crosbie, Monitoring Officer, introduced herself and presented the report.
She said that she was currently investigating a complaint and had involved the
independent person.

In response to member's questions, the monitoring officer outlined the process she
was undertaking. She said that there was no time limit imposed on such
investigations but she prioritised such cases to bring them to a timely conclusion.

Members discussed the use of cases referred to the monitoring officer (in an anonymised format) to provide learning opportunities. It was suggested that the monitoring officer delivered a member's training session on this topic.

Peter Franzen asked who the point of contact would be for someone who had concerns around councillor's code of conduct issues. He said that other organisations had 'whistle-blowing guardians' that employees could speak to in the first instance if they had any concerns.

RESOLVED to:-

1) Note the annual report of the monitoring officer; and

2) Ask the monitoring officer to bring a report to the next meeting on whistleblowing, to consider the appointment of whistleblowing guardians.

6.   Dates of future meetings

RESOLVED to ask the committee officer to circulate a date for the November meeting that did not fall on a Friday.

CHAIR