



## STANDARDS COMMITTEE

10:00 am – 10:00 am

15 June 2012

Present: Mr P Franzen (chair), Mr C Thrower (vice chair) Councillors Gihawi, Gee, Grenville, Lay, Lubbock and Rogers

Apologies:

### 1. MINUTES

**RESOLVED** to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2012.

### 2. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The chair referred to the new seven "Nolan" principles of public life which had been introduced to replace the ten general principles previously in place.

### 3. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF STANDARDS

The annual report of the independent Chair of the standards committee was considered and endorsed by the committee.

**RESOLVED** that the annual report of the chair of standards be presented to the next available meeting of the council

### 4. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT AND STANDARDS FRAME WORK ARRANGEMENTS

The monitoring officer gave an overview of the standards framework resulting from the Localism Act 2011. He explained that a new procedure for standards and a new code of conduct for councillors needed to be put in place which would encompass the 7 Nolan principles. The purpose of the report was to seek members' decision on implementation of the new standards regime under the Localism Act 2011.

As part of the new arrangements an independent person's view must be sought on the investigation of allegations against councillors.

The monitoring officer said that the new regime would commence on 1 July 2012 and training would be available for members on the new local code and the new arrangements for declaration of pecuniary and non pecuniary interests. The new arrangements required that partners of councillors interests also be declared.

The monitoring officer said that the new code of conduct requirements had been discussed jointly by all of Norfolk council leaders who had agreed to ask nplaw to work with monitoring officers on a joint code of conduct. Due to local needs and differences this had not however been possible to agree. Therefore the council had produced its own local code of conduct and arrangements for when the code had been engaged. It had been designed as a much simplified process than existed for the outgoing regime. Along with the new arrangements for dealing with standards allegations, it was a requirement of the Act that the council carry out the establishment of a new standards committee. Members supported the co-option of the current two independent members to the new committee and the appointment by the monitoring officer of an Independent person.

**RESOLVED** to recommend council to adopt, as of 1 July 2012, the standards framework arrangements set out in the report, including:

- (1) The code of conduct, together with the guidance for members, set out as appendix 1;
- (2) The establishment of arrangements for dealing with standards allegations and the establishment of a standards committee all as set out in appendix 2;
- (3) The appointment of an independent person and reserve independent persons in accordance with paragraph 18-23 of the report;
- (4) The establishment of a register of interests to be kept and maintained by the monitoring officer and to contain those matters set out in appendix 3 until such time as the Secretary of State publishes regulations relating to 'disclosable pecuniary interests' when the council may be asked to consider new proposals and changes to standing orders in relation to the registration and declaration of interests;
- (5) The delegation of dispensation powers under section 33 of the Act to the standards committee and the designation of the monitoring officer as proper officer for the receipt of applications for dispensations;
- (6) The adoption of such other changes to the council's constitution as are necessitated by the changes outlined above;
- (7) The delegation to the monitoring officer of the power to take all steps and deal with all such ancillary matters as are required to implement any of the above and to render the council compliant with the Act.

CHAIR