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Standards Committee

16 January 2019

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 16TH JANUARY, 2019 AT 10.00 AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNCIL CHAMBER

Present:	Councillors Heaney (Chairman), Bray (Vice-Chair), Bucke, S Honeywood, Nicholls, Steady and Whitmore
In Attendance:	Lisa Hastings (Head of Governance and Legal Services & Monitoring Officer), Linda Trembath (Senior Solicitor (Litigation and Governance) & Deputy Monitoring Officer), Martin Klaassen (Senior Governance Officer) and Debbie Bunce (Legal and Governance Administration Officer)
Also in Attendance:	Clarissa Gosling (Independent Person), John Wolton (Independent Person), David Irvine (Independent Person), Jane Watt (Independence Person).

40. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

There were none.

41. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee, held on 3 October 2018, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

42. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none on this occasion.

43. **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 37**

There were none on this occasion.

44. **CASE REVIEW**

The Monitoring Officer gave a presentation to the Committee for its information and in particular drew the Committee's attention to seven national cases relating to:

1. Notice of Censure
2. Overinflated Mileage Claims
3. Is the Council's MO a "Qualified Person"
4. Localism Act v Grievance Procedures
5. Ex-Leader exceeding authority in dispute
6. Ex-Planning Committee Chair resigns following acceptance of gifts and hospitality
7. Councillor's Use of Social Media.

The Monitoring Officer agreed to let the Committee know of the final outcomes on these cases.

The Monitoring Officer also informed the Committee that the National Audit Office Study of local governance and accountability had recently been received and it focussed primarily on financial considerations. There would be no impact on the Standards Committee's Terms of Reference.

The Ethical Standards Review outcome was due on 30th January 2019 and the Monitoring Officer said that she would circulate this when it was received and it would be discussed at the next meeting of the Committee.

45. DISCUSSION TOPICS AND/OR UPDATES FROM THE MONITORING OFFICER

Quarterly Complaints Update

The Monitoring Officer circulated to the Committee the quarterly schedule, which gave general details of complaints received, without providing any names, and went through them with the Committee.

Updates from the Monitoring Officer

The new Independent Persons had now been appointed and approved by full Council in November. The Chairman welcomed them to their first meeting. They would receive their training following today's meeting.

The meeting was declared closed at 10.52 am

Chairman