

STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING 13<sup>th</sup> January 2010

HELD AT THE TOWN HALL PETERBOROUGH

The meeting was chaired by Mr Steve Boast

Referrals / Complaints

There was one complaint

Update on Minutes of Last Meeting

CRB checks --- There are new requirements for persons engaging in regulated activity from 26th July 2010 but specific guidance which was expected in December 2009 has not yet been received. To be discussed at the next meeting

Local Democracy Week --- The Committee were asked for suggestions for discussion at the next meeting

Training --- Standards for England have produced 2 Training DVD s which will be available for members to view at home.

A questionnaire has been sent out to all Councillors and a response is awaited.

The City Council has approved the creation of a new Parish Council at Hampton Hargate and Hampton Vale. This will be formed in April 2010 and will consist of 14 new Councillors.

Monitoring Officers Report

This was presented by Kim Sawyer Head of Legal (Commercial) who is the Deputy Monitoring Officer

This report dealt mainly with issues revolving around the Register of Members Interests and whether they should be published on the City Councils website.

Under the Code of Conduct Members are required to register certain interests in order to;

Ensure public confidence in the probity of the Council

Maintain the accountability of its members

Maintain transparency in local government decision making

This has been a Public Register since the Local Government Act 2000 and the duties apply equally to Parish Councillors as they do to Council Members.

Since 2007 members are also required to declare any gifts and hospitality received which has a value of £25 or more.

The Standards for England states that sensitive information which could create serious risk to that member or a member of his household should be withheld but that it must be agreed with the Monitoring Officer.

A survey of other Councils websites has revealed that the majority of councils which have a web page dedicated to the Standards Committee do have a public register of Members interests

A decision on this matter will be taken later.

Cllr Denis Batty