

ADJUDICATION AND REVIEW COMMITTEE SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

17 April 2014

The following report is attached for consideration and is submitted with the agreement of the Chairman as an urgent matter pursuant to Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972

6 MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ADJUDICATION & REVIEW - (STANDARDS - HEARINGS SUB-COMMITTEE) (Pages 1 - 6)

Report and Minutes of Hearing attached

**Andrew Beesley
Committee Administration
Manager**

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GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

17 April 2014

Subject Heading:	MINUTES OF A STANDARDS HEARING
Report Author and contact details:	Helen Edwards, Director of Legal & Governance
Policy context:	The effective and efficient provision of public services
Financial summary:	None specific to this report or the appendices

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Clean, safe and green borough	<input type="checkbox"/>
Excellence in education and learning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Opportunities for all through economic, social and cultural activity	<input type="checkbox"/>
Value and enhance the life of every individual	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
High customer satisfaction and a stable council tax	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUMMARY

Since the removal of the Standards Committee, issues involving Members have been accommodated by provision within the overview of the Adjudication & Review Committee.

Panels are convened on an ad-hoc basis to consider allegations of misdemeanour against Members and provision is made for the outcome of those hearings to be placed before the whole Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That this report be noted.

REPORT DETAIL

From time to time the Adjudication & Review Committee is asked to consider allegations of misdemeanour or behaviour which could bring the Council into disrespect brought by either members of the public or other councillors.

On 27 March 2014, a sub-committee of the Adjudication & Review Committee was convened to hear and consider allegations from members of the public and other councillors against a councillor and to determine whether there was a case to answer.

The minutes of that hearing are appended to this cover report.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

*There is a **corporate** requirement to set out the implications and risks of the decision sought, in the following areas*

Financial implications and risks:

There are none specific to this cover report or with the appendices.

Legal implications and risks:

The Constitution provides for the Adjudication & Review Committee to consider allegations made against councillors.

Human Resources implications and risks: None

Equalities implications and risks: None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
ADJUDICATION & REVIEW - (STANDARDS - HEARINGS SUB-COMMITTEE)
Committee Room 2 - Town Hall
27 March 2014 (6.00 - 6.30 pm)**

Present:

COUNCILLORS

Conservative Group Frederick Thompson (Chairman)

Labour Group Denis O'Flynn

Independent Residents Group Michael Deon Burton

Councillor Damian White was in attendance as an observer.

Apologies were received for the absence of Councillor John Mylod.

The Chairman reminded Members of the action to be taken in an emergency.

1 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

The Committee resolved to exclude the public from the meeting during discussion of the following item on the grounds that if members of the public were present it was likely that, given the nature of the business to be transacted, that there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within the meaning of paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 which could reveal information relating to an individual.

2 CASE NOS. CO35/13, CO36/13, CO37/13 & CO38/13: COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION AND REPORT

Following the meeting of the Initial Assessment Panel held on 17 September, 2013 the Monitoring Officer had appointed an Investigating Officer to formally investigate those elements of the complaints which related to the comments made in the newspaper interview.

We agreed that Councillor A be given an opportunity to provide a response to the Investigating Officers report. This opportunity was declined and both Councillor A and the Investigating Officer were asked to leave whilst we made our deliberations.

We have accepted the recommendation of the Investigating Officer that Councillor A had not breached the Code of Conduct. However, we have asked the Monitoring Officer to speak to Councillor A explaining that to engage in a public dispute such as this, even if not in his capacity as a councillor could bring the Council in to disrepute.

The Chairman abstained from voting on these decisions.

Chairman

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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