

**STANDARDS CONSIDERATION AND HEARING SUB-COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2010  
COUNTY HALL at 3 pm**

**Present:-**

Mr P Bland  
Mr J Goodey  
Mr S Revell

Also Present:

Ms V McNeill –Head of Law and Monitoring Officer  
Mr K Hounsome – Independent Investigator  
Mrs S Farrell – Democratic Support Manager

**1. Apologies:-**

There were none.

**2. Election of Chairman**

It was proposed and seconded that Mr Revell be elected Chairman and members accordingly

**RESOLVED** that Mr Revell be elected Chairman for this Sub-Committee meeting.

**3. Declaration of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. Exclusion of the Public**

The meeting was advised that, with regard to agenda item 5, the Sub-Committee needed to consider whether to exclude the public for the consideration of this report. The Head of Law and Monitoring Officer presented the Public Interest Test, as required by the 2006 Access to Information Regulations, for the consideration of the Sub-Committee as follows:

**Agenda Item 5, Consideration of Investigator's Report**

- 4.1 The Head of Law and Monitoring Officer advised the Sub-Committee that only the Sub-Committee members and the parties involved in this complaint had received a copy of the Investigator's report; very little information in relation to the complaint was in the public domain; there would undoubtedly be some interest amongst the general public in knowing the details of the complaint but release of the information could be damaging to the Council in looking after the best interests of the Norfolk

public; the subject member had stated that if there was a finding of no failure to comply with the Code he would ask, as he was entitled to do, that no notice of the outcome be published. She recommended that, weighing all the relevant matters up, the public interest was better served by excluding the public from this meeting.

- 4.3 The Chairman and Sub-Committee members, having duly considered at length the release of this information, concurred with this view and it was:

**RESOLVED:**

The Sub-Committee agreed that agenda item 5 be excluded from public disclosure by virtue of paragraph 7C of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as extended by the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008) to the Local Government Act 1972 and the tests applied above, confirming that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

**5. Consideration of Investigator's Report**

The Head of Law and Monitoring Officer presented the annexed report (5), containing exempt information. Following discussion, the Committee

**RESOLVED**

That the recommendations contained in the exempt report be accepted.

The meeting finished at 16:05 pm

CHAIRMAN