



Standards Consideration and Hearing Sub-Committee

Date: **Wednesday 9 November 2011**

Time: **2.30pm**

Venue: **Mezzanine 1, County Hall, Norwich**

Membership:

Mr R Bearman
Mr J Goodey
Mr S Revell

**For further details and general enquiries about this Agenda
Please contact Lesley Rudelhoff Scott, Committee Officer on 01603 222963
or email lesley.rudelhoff.scott@norfolk.gov.uk**

AGENDA

1 Apologies

2 Election of Chairman

3 Minutes

(Page 1)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6 April 2011

4 Members to Declare any Interests

Please indicate whether the interest is a personal one only or one which is prejudicial. A declaration of a personal interest should indicate the nature of the interest and the agenda item to which it relates. In the case of a personal interest, the member may speak and vote on the matter. Please note that if you are exempt from declaring a personal interest because it arises solely from your position on a body to which you were nominated by the County Council or a body exercising functions of a public nature (e.g. another local authority), you need only declare your interest if and when you intend to speak on a matter.

If a prejudicial interest is declared, the member should withdraw from the room whilst the matter is discussed unless members of the public are allowed to make representations, give evidence or answer questions about the matter, in which case you may attend the meeting for that purpose. You must immediately leave the room when you have finished or the meeting decides you have finished, if earlier. **These declarations apply to all those members present, whether the member is part of the meeting, attending to speak as a local member on an item or simply observing the meeting from the public seating area.**

5 Exclusion of the Public

The committee is asked to consider excluding the public from the meeting under section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 for consideration of the item below on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraph 7C of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act as extended by the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008, and that the public interest in maintaining the exemptions outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

The committee will be presented with the conclusion of the public interest test carried out by the report author and is recommended to confirm the exclusion.

6 Minutes (Page 3)

To approve the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 6 April 2011

7 Consideration of Investigator's Report (Page 5a)

Report by Head of Law and Monitoring Officer

Date Agenda Published: 1 November 2011

Chris Walton
Head of Democratic Services
County Hall
Martineau Lane
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STANDARDS CONSIDERATION AND HEARING SUB-COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6 APRIL 2011
COUNTY HALL at 4.15 pm**

Present:-

Mr R Bearman
Mr P Gibbs
Mr S Revell

Also Present:

Ms V McNeill –Head of Law and Monitoring Officer
Mr D Johnson – 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 that only the Sub-Committee members and the parties involved in this complaint had received a copy of the Investigator's report, which related to a matter of whether certain documentation was confidential. If published, the release of the information could further impact on the

complainant who had reported this matter to the Monitoring Officer and could dissuade others from reporting alleged breaches of confidentiality.

- 4.3 The Chairman and Sub-Committee members, having duly considered whether to release 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 Sub-Committee

RESOLVED

That the recommendations contained in the exempt report be accepted.

The meeting finished at 16:45 pm

CHAIRMAN