

Standards Committee



Date	20 May 2009
Venue	Town Hall, St Annes
Committee members	Mr DDE Birchall (Chairman) Councillors Brenda Ackers, Kevin Eastham. Harold Butler, Linda Burn, Richard Nulty.
Officers	Ian Curtis, Hazel Wood

1. Declarations of interest

Members were reminded that any personal/prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct adopted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000.

2. Confirmation of minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 2 December 2008 as a correct record for signature by the chairman.

3. Substitute members

There were no substitute members.

4. Standards board Annual Return

The committee considered the Annual return to the Standards Board for England which the Monitoring Officer had filed for Fylde Borough Council. The return was filed on-line and consisted of a number of questions about the activities of the Standards Committee within the past year. Members looked at each of the questions which gave a good indication about the areas which the Board considered standards committees should be involved in.

Following discussion the Committee RESOLVED:

1. The Monitoring Officer to arrange a Standards committee Learning Hour which would include a DVD and a Q&A refresher to train new Standards committee members. All members of the Standards committee, Borough Councillors and Parish Councillors are to be invited to attend.
2. To note the annual return.
3. The Monitoring Officer to report the annual return to the council.

5. Complaints to the Standards Committee: Statistics

Members considered the report on complaints to the Standards Committee, statistics. Ian Curtis (Monitoring Officer) explained that there had now been sixteen complaints to the Standards Board since the introduction of local filtering last May. Seven of these had been referred for investigation.

Ian explained to the committee that the biggest challenge was the investigations which could take considerably longer than 3 months to complete this was due to limited resources. Members expressed concern and suggested that the Chairman speak to the leader of the Council or portfolio holder regarding the delays.

Following discussion the Committee RESOLVED: To note the statistical information.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Chairman thanked the committee members for there attendance and continued co-operation and also thanked the Monitoring Officer for his continued support to the committee.

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