



MINUTES

Audit and Standards Committee

Date:	Thursday, 23 November 2017
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes.
Committee Members Present:	Councillor John Singleton, JP (Chairman) Councillors Delma Collins, Peter Collins, Sue Fazackerley, Edward Nash, Roger Small.
Independent Persons Present:	Mr Horrocks and Mr Mozley
Officers Present:	Tracy Morrison, Clare Lord, Katharine McDonnell
Other Attendees:	Mike Dudfield, Investigating Officer

1. Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded that any disclosable pecuniary interests should be declared as required by the Localism Act 2011 and any personal or prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct for Members.

There were no declarations.

2. Substitute Members

The following substitutions were reported under Council procedure rule 24(c):

Councillor Sue Fazackerley for Councillor Graeme Neale

Decision Items

3. Exclusion of the Public

Members of the committee were invited to consider passing a resolution excluding the public from the meeting for the consideration of item 4 below in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(4) of the Local Government Act 1972. This was on the grounds that the business to be discussed was exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 (Information relating to an individual and Information which was likely to reveal the identity of the individual) of Schedule 12A of the Act.

It was RESOLVED to exclude the public.

4. Code of Conduct Investigation

Tracy Morrison (Monitoring Officer) advised that a complaint had been received by the Monitoring Officer and the Chief Executive from a Councillor regarding a statement made by another Councillor at a committee meeting.

Ms Morrison advised members that a preliminary investigation had been instigated, following conferral with Mr Horrocks, Independent Person, to seek to ascertain the precise comments made and the context in which the comments were made.

The committee heard the findings of the preliminary investigation from the investigating officer, Mr Mike Dudfield, and asked a number of questions to clarify their understanding of the findings.

Following a discussion, taking into regards the findings of the investigatory officer, the view of the Monitoring Officer and the Independent Person, the Committee RESOLVED:

1. Noted the findings of Mr Dudfield's report; and
2. Directed the Monitoring Officer to close the matter with no further action to be taken.

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