

Minutes of a meeting of the Audit and Standards Assessment Sub-Committee held on 1 August 2011

Present:

Members of the Sub-Committee

Mr John Bridgeman – Independent member

Councillor Clare Hopkinson

Councillor Tim Naylor

Officers:

Carol Evans – Corporate Legal Services

Janet Purcell – Democratic Services Manager

1. General

(1) Election of Chair

Councillor Tim Naylor proposed, and Councillor Clare Hopkinson seconded, that Mr John Bridgeman be Chair of the Sub-Committee.

Resolved

That Mr John Bridgeman be chair of the Assessment Sub-Committee.

(2) Apologies for absence

None.

(3) Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests

None.

2. Complaint under the Member Code of Conduct

The Sub-Committee considered a referral from the Leader of the Council that a Councillor “had claimed car mileage and other expenses which were not in accordance with the Member Allowances Scheme during the period 2 February 2010 to 28 February 2011”.

The complaint concerned four sets of expenses. The Sub-Committee considered the alleged breach and took into account the Council's published assessment criteria and the Standards Board guidance for consideration of complaints.

The Sub-Committee considered the four options:

- To refer the matter to the Monitoring Officer for investigation or
- To refer the matter to the Standards Board for England for investigation, or
- To refer the matter to the Monitoring Officer for other action, or
- To take no further action.

The Sub-Committee concluded that the allegations were sufficiently serious to warrant referral of the matter to the Monitoring Officer for investigation.

Resolved

That the matter be referred to the Monitoring Officer for investigation.

The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.

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Chair