

## STANDARDS COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Standards Committee was held on Thursday 2 June 2011 commencing at 10.00 am in the Police Authority Members Room at Police Headquarters.

PRESENT	Ms Ann O'Hanlon (Chair), Ms Vicki Lawson-Brown, Mr John Robinson, Mr Joe Rayner, Mr Gerard Walsh and Mr Peter Race MBE.
ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES	Mr Aslam Hanif, Mr Ted Cox JP.
OFFICIALS	Ms Kath Allaway (CE).

### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Ms Carole Pollard (Vice Chair), Miss Pam Andrews-Mawer, Councillor Barry Coppinger and Councillor Mary Lanigan.

### DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

### OUTSTANDING RECOMMENDATIONS

**ORDERED** that:-

1. the outstanding recommendations be updated and agreed.

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### CLEVELAND POLICE AUTHORITY MONITORING OFFICER REPORT

The Police Authority Advisor presented the report, confirming that all Members of the Police Authority had completed a Declaration of Interests. The register had been inspected by Members of the Standards Committee on 10 May 2011. The Register was available on the Cleveland Police Authority Website. Any new Members Declarations should be included on the website as soon as possible following the Police Authority Annual General Meeting.

Members were informed that eight Members of the Police Authority had declared receipt of hospitality in accordance with the Code of Corporate Governance.

The Code of Conduct and Official Secrets Declaration had been completed by all Members with the exception of two co-opted Members. The Chair asked that the Monitoring Officer ensures that this is followed up.

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The Police Authority Advisor also stated that 24 Freedom of Information Requests had been received during 2010/2011. The system for making such a request was available on the

website.

**ORDERED** that:-

1. The Standards Committee formally acknowledge completion of the annual reviews of Members Register of Interests, Gifts and Hospitality in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct.
2. That in future the Chair of the Standards Committee and three other Members meet prior to the main meeting to inspect the Registers and any findings and recommendations be included in the Monitoring Officers Report to the Standards Committee.
3. Members note there have been no confidential reporting issues reported to the Police Authority during 2010/2011.
4. Members note that the Cleveland Police Authority Publication Scheme is accessible through the website and that the Police Authority has received 24 Freedom of Information requests over the past year.
5. Members note that 21 documents were signed and sealed in accordance with procedure over the period 2010/11.
6. Members note that no complaints were received against Members during 2010/11.
7. Members agreed this report be submitted to the Police Authority Executive Meeting.

**THE FUTURE OF STANDARDS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

The Police Authority Advisor presented the report to Members explaining that the Government intended, through the Localism Bill, to abolish the Standards for England. The Proposals were:

- Remove the First-Tier Tribunal's jurisdiction over Member Conduct
- Remove the national Code of Conduct for councillors and the Requirement to have a Standards Committee
- Allow Authorities to choose if they have a local code or Standards Committee
- Create a criminal offence relating to failure to register or declare interests

A member asked how this would effect the Standards Committees, and the Monitoring Officer stated that it was unclear but that the position was being monitored and an

update would be provided once the position was clear. The Chairman of the Police Authority stated that he would propose that the current regime within the Police Authority would continue and that a meeting of Standards would be called once the position was clearer.

Monitoring  
Officer

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chair of the Committee stated that she would not normally consider any other business however the unusual circumstances of recent weeks with the media interest may be of concern to all members of the Standards Committee and asked if the Standards Committee had a role to play.

The Police Authority Advisor explained that the Standards Committee's role was in relation to Members standards of conduct and as such these were not matters that fell within the terms of reference of the Committee.