

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a **MEETING** of the **STANDARDS COMMITTEE** held on Wednesday 12 February 2014 at 6.00pm

Present:

Councillors: C Slade (Chairman), R J Chesterton, Mrs F J Colthorpe, R Evans, Mrs L J Holloway, P F Williams and Mrs N Woollatt

Apologies:

Councillors: R M Deed and F J Rosamond

Officers

Present: A Tregellas (Head of Communities and Governance, Monitoring Officer), J Stuckey (Member Services Officer) and S Gabriel (Principal Member Services Officer).

12. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present.

13. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the previous meeting on 31 July 2013 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

14. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had no announcements to make.

15. CONSTITUTION WORKING GROUP (Recording 1 minute 06 seconds)

The Committee had before it a report* of the Monitoring Officer regarding a proposed amendment to the Constitution. She outlined the contents of the report stating that the Cabinet at its meeting on 28 November had made a recommendation to Full Council requesting that the Head of Housing and Property Services be given delegated authority in consultation with the Cabinet Member to acquire sites and affordable housing units for the continued provision of affordable housing in the District.

Full Council at its meeting on 18 December 2013 approved this recommendation; however Members raised concerns regarding the financial implications. The additional delegation to the Head of Housing and Property Services required an amendment to the Constitution and therefore the Constitution Working Group were asked to consider the approved recommendation at its meeting on 13 January 2014 and put forward some additional wording to be added to the Constitution for approval to allay concerns.

Discussion followed with regard to budget provision and checking mechanisms.

RECOMMENDED to Council that an addition be made to the delegations to the Head of Housing and Property Services in the Constitution to state that he has “authority in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member to acquire sites and affordable housing units for the continued provision of affordable housing in the District within available budgets”

(Proposed by the Chairman)

The Monitoring Officer updated the Committee on the progress of the work of the Constitution Working Group and explained what the Group would like the final document to look like.

Note: Report* previously circulated, copy attached to signed minutes.

16. **COMPLAINTS (recording 19 minutes, 25 seconds)**

The Monitoring Officer informed the Committee of the number of complaints she was dealing with at the present time, four of which were Parish issues. She also outlined issues with regard to specific action taken against 2 District Councillors, information of which was in the public domain and she reiterated for the Committee's information the powers given to the Monitoring Officer by the Localism Act 2011.

17. **TRAINING (recording 25 minutes, 14 seconds)**

The Chairman stated that the membership of the Committee may change with a new proposed draft allocation being put before Full Council on 26 February. If the new Member had training requirements then this would also be open to any other member of the Committee who wished to attend.

18. **IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING (recording 26 minutes, 01 seconds)**

- Constitution
- Update regarding complaints
- Officer Code of Conduct – to be updated and approved

It was **AGREED** that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Wednesday 28 May 2014 at 6.00pm

(The meeting terminated at 6.26pm)

CHAIRMAN