

Addendum for Council 23 October 2013

Item 15 Code of Conduct Training

Please find below a letter received from Councillor Dhillon about this matter on 18 October 2013:

“Dear Mr Leach,

Re : Proposals by the Deputy Monitoring Officer as to training

I thank you for your email of 5th October and the attachment headed “Training requirements for Councillor Dhillon”.

I have now had a meeting with Mr Hathaway who represented me at the full meeting of the Council which was held on Wednesday 21st August last and I have discussed with him and taken his advice with regard to the Council’s Resolution made on that evening in connection with the breaches of the Councillor’s Code of Conduct.

I fully accept and respect the four elements of the Resolution made, including the direction that I should undertake training which would be arranged by the Monitoring Officer and that I would bear one half of the cost of the same.

I do not, however, accept the interpretation by you of the direction and more particularly the extent of the discretion that you are exercising in endeavouring to implement the training. It is my understanding that it was clearly implied that the Monitoring Officer would arrange for me to undertake training in connection with the Councillor’s Code of Conduct; I am happy to do this. You are now suggesting that I undertake training on questioning skills, public speaking, coping with pressure/stress and have three sessions of coaching. This was not the intent behind the decision.

I will of course respect and abide by any subsequent decision of the Council clarifying the position and no doubt you will circulate this letter.”

Item 16 Membership of Committees

The information below replaces that set out in the agenda following confirmation of the Councillors to be appointed by the Conservative and Independent groups.

To approve the following changes to Committee memberships:

- (1) To note the change in political composition of the Employment Committee & Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee to 5 Conservatives, 2 Liberal Democrats, 2 Labour and 2 Independents;
- (2) To approve the changes to Committee membership from the Conservative Group
 - (a) To remove Councillor Caborn from the Employment Committee as a Conservative appointment;
 - (b) To replace Councillor Dagg on Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee with Councillor Mrs Bunker;
 - (c) To replace Councillor Dagg on Planning Committee with Councillor Mobbs;
 - (d) To replace Councillor Dagg and Councillor Mrs Grainger on Housing Appeals

- Review Panels with Councillors Mrs Bunker and Councillor Mrs Gallagher;
- (e) To remove Councillor Dagg as a substitute for Employment Committee, Licensing Committee, Overview & Scrutiny Committee, and Regulatory Committee;
 - (f) To remove Councillor Mobbs as a named substitute for Planning Committee; and
 - (g) To appoint Councillor Caborn to the Conservative vacancy on the Licensing Committee.
- (3) To approve the changes to the Committee membership from the Independent Group
- (a) To appoint Councillor Mrs Bromley from the Independent Group to the Employment Committee as the second Independent representative;
 - (b) To appoint Councillor Mrs Mellor to the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee as the second Independent Representative; and
 - (c) To appoint Councillor Dagg as a substitute for the Independent Group for all Committees that he is not a member of, excluding Standards Committee.

Urgent Item – Chairman’s Bank Account

This has been brought forward by the Chairman as an urgent item to enable this arrangement, if agreed, to be implemented as soon as possible.

The Chairman of the Council holds a bank account for the collection of the money for their charities and payments associated with holding the Chairman’s events for their charities.

At present the signatory for this account is the Chairman of the Council and each year the signatory is changed under the decision to appoint a Chairman.

The Chairman now proposes that the account signatories should be the Monitoring Officer, Democratic Services Manager & Deputy Monitoring Officer and Personal Assistant to the Chairman.

Two signatories would be required to sign cheques from this account. It would enable the Personal Assistant to the Chairman to access details about the account more readily. It would also remove the need for the new Chairman to complete changes in the bank mandate each year.

This has been accepted by Internal Audit as a reasonable process.