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STANDARDS COMMITTEE

17 MARCH 2015

PRESENT

Councillor J. Holden (in the Chair).

Councillors K. Procter (Vice-Chairman), Dr. K. Barclay, R. Bowker, C. Boyes, Mrs. L. Evans, M. Freeman, D. Jarman, P. Myers, A. Williams, Mr. D. Goodman, Mr. C.E.G. Griffiths, A. Rudden and Mrs. S. Royle and Mr R. Brown.

In attendance

Jane Le Fevre	Monitoring Officer
Habib Khan	Head of Legal (Community)
Alexander Murray	Democratic Officer

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L. Dagnall and P. Myers.

8. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th November 2014 be approved as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made by members.

10. SOCIAL MEDIA

The Committee received a report and presentation from the Head of Legal (Community). The presentation gave a brief introduction, listed the benefits and weaknesses of the different forms of Social Media and covered the legal issues that can arise from using social media incorrectly. The main issues highlighted were libel, copyright infringement, data protection, bias/pre-determination, obscene material and breach of the code of conduct.

The committee discussed the presentation and made the following suggestions for additional content;

- The use of privacy settings on Social Media.
- To highlight the dangers of posting whilst intoxicated /emotional.
- To add additional forms of social media to the presentation such as snap chat, Instagram and YouTube.
- To remind Councillors about the obligations of acting/or giving the impression that they are acting in their official capacity

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the presentation be noted; and
- 2) The presentation is amended in line with the suggestions of the committee members.

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- 3) The Chairman, Monitoring Officer and Head of Legal Services (Community) meet to agree a strategy for all councillors to access the presentation.
- 4) For an electronic copy of the presentation to be sent to all councillors.
- 5) For the presentation to be made a part of the induction of councillors.

11. LOCAL STANDARDS UPDATE - ISSUES

The Monitoring Officer informed the committee that guidance around publicity during the PURDA period was to be sent out to members.

12. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Chairman thanked the members for being part of the committee over the past year and wished the members who were standing all the best in the forthcoming elections.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm. and finished at 7.26 pm