

Committee: STANDARDS

Agenda Item

Date: 21 March 2016

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Title: REPORT OF THE STANDARDS TASK GROUP

Author: Michael Perry, Assistant Chief Executive – Legal, 01799 510416 Item for decision

Summary

1. This report is to seek an extension of time for the Standards Task Group to complete its report.

Recommendations

2. Members re-appoint the existing task group with the same terms of reference as the current task group to produce a final report by the 20 March 2017.

Financial Implications

3. None.

Background Papers

4. None.

Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	None
Community Safety	None
Equalities	None
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None
Sustainability	None
Ward-specific impacts	None
Workforce/Workplace	None

Situation

6. On the 6 July 2015 this committee appointed a Standards Task Group to review the Code of Conduct and procedures in relation to allegations of breaches of the Code and to make recommendations accordingly. The date by which the task group would have to submit its report to the Standards Committee was to be the 21 March 2016.
7. The task group first met on the 4 August 2015. It resolved to divide members into two sub-groups; one to look at the Code of Conduct the other to look at procedures. There was a further meeting on the 19 October 2015.
8. It is understood that the sub-groups have been making progress with their respective tasks. However, the task group has not met as a whole since the October meeting and it is therefore unable to provide recommendations to the committee.
9. Under Article 10.1.4 of the council's constitution a task group shall cease to exist on the earlier of the production of its final report or the date a final report is required (whether or not a report has been produced) but without prejudice to the right of the appointing body to appoint the same or different members as a task group to complete the task. It follows therefore that the current task group ceases to exist on the date of this meeting.
10. Clearly this is an important piece of work which needs to be brought to a conclusion. It is for that reason that members are recommended to re-appoint the task group and extend the period for production of the final report.
11. It is hoped that the task group will be able to report sooner than the backstop date contained in the recommendation. However, they should not be put under any time pressure to do so. It is for that reason that date has been selected. The provision of the 20 March 2017 as a final date in no way prevents the task group reporting sooner if it is able to do so. If having completed its work and prepared a final report the chairman considers an extraordinary meeting is desirable for the report to be received by the full committee, then she may call one pursuant to rule 3.1.2 of the council's procedure rules or alternatively could ask me to request such a meeting pursuant to rule 3.1.3.

Risk Analysis

12. There are no risks arising from this report.