

**MINUTES OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL WORKING GROUP,
HELD AT COUNCIL OFFICES, WIGSTON,
ON 4 AUGUST 2015**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors: Mrs S Morris, B Boulter, Mrs L Broadley, Mrs H Loydall, T Barr,
A Bond

Officers: Mrs A Court- Director of Services and Monitoring Officer

	Narrative	Officer Responsible
	<p><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></p> <p>Councillor D Carter</p>	
1.	<p>Minutes of the Previous Meeting on 15 October 2014</p> <p>Agreed. Matters arising- the remuneration panel clarification on outside body payments and the checklist for members on key procedural rules are outstanding</p>	AC
2.	<p>Standards</p> <p>(i)Hearing Panels Training and Membership – it had previously been agreed that the pool would be all members to sit on Standard investigation panels for which training would be given. AC had brought this back to the group as on reflection it would not be appropriate for effectively full Council to be the pool from which panels are drawn from. Members agreed with this on reflection. It was agreed that whilst all members are to be invited to training, any panel would in the first instance be drawn from members of Policy, Finance and Development committee, who had attended training (as Standards matters are within the Terms of Reference for that committee). In the exceptional circumstances of there being insufficient members of Policy Finance and Development available eg due to</p>	AC
3.		

	<p>conflicting out, to form necessary panels then other members who had received training would be called upon. AC to amend the Terms of Reference for Policy, Finance and Development committee as necessary to include panel hearings</p> <p>4. (ii) Reporting of Standards Matters – with the statutory scheme and prescribed reporting of matters being abolished it was agreed that reporting of all complaints and outcomes would be published through Policy Finance and Development committee as a standing agenda item. Where necessary, reporting would be exempt.</p> <p>5. Openness of Local Bodies Regulations 2014 – webcasting of Council and Committee meetings</p> <p>AC circulated information collated from other local authorities on the feasibility of webcasting meetings. The general consensus from the reports being that it was prohibitive in terms of resource and set up costs. As an alternative and to comply with the Openness agenda, Members agreed that the recording of Council, Policy Finance and Development, Service Delivery and Development Control be implemented with making the audio recording available on the Council’s website</p> <p>6. Speaking at meetings – duration</p> <p>A member of the group had specifically raised an issue on the lengthiness of some members speeches at meeting and queried whether stricter time limits should be imposed by the Chairs. Other members disagree with a strict approach out of concern of stifling debate and felt the current Constitutional rules are sufficient, allowing the Chairs discretion as they see fit for extended speeches. This was with the caveat that a “come back” speaker would only be permitted if introducing something new to the debate.</p>	<p>AC</p> <p>AC</p>
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