

MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

11 March 2008

7.30 p.m. – 8.05 p.m.

PRESENT

Brian Spencer (Chair)

David Evans

COUNCILLORS

Patrick McClarnon

Lesley Rideout

APOLOGIES

Maggie Hulcoop

28. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

29. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2008 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

30. **MATTERS ARISING**

None.

31. **LOCAL INVESTIGATION REGIME**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Mike White, gave a verbal update on the Government's proposals for Councils to implement locally based ethical regimes.

The Committee noted that it was unlikely that the new arrangements would be in place by April 2008 as first proposed by the Government and that it was hoped Harlow would adopt the new arrangements at annual Council in May 2008.

RESOLVED to note the verbal update.

32. **PROPOSED NEW TERMS OF REFERENCE – STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

The Committee received a report outlining proposed revisions to the Terms of Reference based upon the changes necessary to implement the new locally based ethical regime from May 2008.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the revised Terms of Reference, as set out in Appendix A, be recommended to Council for adoption;
- (b) the Monitoring Officer starts the process to recruit an additional Independent Member;
- (c) the Monitoring Officer be instructed to arrange training for all members of the Standards Committee on the detailed application of the new arrangements and for all members on the new regime generally;
- (d) the Monitoring Office pursue reciprocal arrangements for investigations with other authorities.

33. **REVIEW OF COMMITTEE DECISIONS**

RESOLVED to note the schedule of decisions taken by the Committee during 2007/08.

34. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

Annual Conference

In response to a question about the date of the annual conference for 2008, Officers undertook to investigate and advise the Committee, by email, in due course.

RESOLVED to note that the details of the 2008 Standards Board Conference would be confirmed, by email, in due course.

35. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED to note that the schedule of meetings for the Committee for 2008/09 would be confirmed shortly.

CHAIR OF COMMITTEE