

MINUTES OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON

16 July 2008

7.30pm –8.10pm

PRESENT

Brian Spencer (Chairman)

David Evans

COUNCILLORS

David Carter
Patrick McClarnon

Manny Doku

Maggie Hulcoop
Lesley Rideout

APOLOGIES

Muriel Jolles

Eleanor Macy

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2008 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Proposed New Terms of Reference – Standards Committee
Minute 32 Refers

It was noted that the Monitoring Officer was now a board member of the Essex Legal Services Partnership. This partnership was currently formulating a protocol for sharing skills for Standards investigations, on a non-profit making basis.

There were currently 14 member authorities, but this was likely to increase once the benefits of the partnership became apparent.

4. **REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Committee received a report requesting Members to review its terms of reference, in the light of the recent local elections and new make up of the Council and this Committee.

Members considered that the current terms of reference were fit for purpose.

RESOLVED that the suitability of the current terms of reference be confirmed.

5. **RECRUITMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER**

The Committee received a report proposing the recruitment of a further independent member of this Committee, which was required because the membership had been increased to 12 at the last Annual Council meeting.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the initial recruitment process for the new Independent Members be delegated to the Monitoring Officer;
- (b) the selection of the new Independent Member to be proposed to Council, be carried out by a working party of one existing independent member, three elected members and the Monitoring Officer;
- (c) Brian Spencer and Councillors Maggie Hulcoop, Lesley Rideout and Patrick McClarnon be appointed to the membership of the above working party.

6. **TRAINING ON THE NEW STANDARDS PROCESSES**

Further to Minute 32 (11/3/08), the Committee received a report proposing more detailed training on the new Standards process for members of this Committee.

Members considered whether to opt for in-house or externally provided training.

RESOLVED that in-house training be provided and, if possible, be arranged to take place within the first two weeks of August.

7. **ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF STANDARDS COMMITTEES**

The Committee received a report requesting Members to consider the level of attendance at the seventh Annual Assembly of Standards Committees.

RESOLVED that an opportunity to attend the Annual Assembly of Standards Committees be given to at least one Member from each Group, an independent member, the Monitoring Officer (or his deputy, or Committee Clerk) and any other Committee member (who hasn't attended a previous annual assembly).

8. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE