

## MINUTES OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON

17 June 2009

7.30pm – 8.09pm

### PRESENT

Brian Spencer (Chairman)

David Evans (Vice Chair)

Mick Granger

### COUNCILLORS

David Carter

Jean Clark

Manny Doku

Maggie Hulcoop

Patrick McClarnon

Nick Macy

Lesley Rideout

### APOLOGIES

Muriel Jolles

Edna Stevens

#### 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

#### 2. MINUTES

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 4 March 2009 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### 3. MATTERS ARISING

##### Training (Minute 42)

The Committee noted the feedback on the Castle Point training event, which had been very useful.

Officers undertook to circulate the handouts from the event after the meeting.

#### 4. ANNUAL REPORT

The Monitoring Officer presented a draft of the Committee's first Annual Report for comment.

The Committee welcomed the report and made the following comments:

- (a) a paragraph on Members' expenses should be included, detailing when and where Members' annual claims are published;
- (b) a summary of Members' annual declaration of personal interests should be published on the Council's web site and a note on this included in the report;
- (c) a correction should be made to paragraph 7 on the draft report as only two Members attended the training at Castle Point District Council on 5 March 2009 (and not three as detailed);

**RESOLVED** that the

- (i) above amendments would be carried out to the draft document;
- (ii) Chairman of the Standards Committee would present the revised Standards Committee Annual Report for 2008/09 to Council for approval;
- (iii) approved annual report would be published on the Council's website.

5. **AUDIT COMMISSION – ETHICAL GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

The Committee noted that the Monitoring Officer was waiting for the formal notification of the findings of the ethical governance review which had been carried out by the Audit Commission in June 2009 and that an update would be provided at the next meeting of the Committee.

6. **STANDARDS BOARD ANNUAL CONFERENCE - BIRMINGHAM**

The Committee noted that all five places had been secured on the 2009 Standards Board Annual Conference in Birmingham and that delegate information packs would be forwarded to those attending nearer the time.

7. **TRAINING**

The Monitoring Officer proposed that two training events be held in August 2009. The first sessions would be for Standards Committee members only and the second would be for all Members of Council and Independent Members.

The Committee welcomed the proposals and noted that Officers would contact them shortly to check availability.

The Committee also welcomed the suggestion from the Monitoring Officer that other Councils be invited to attend the second of the two training events.

**RESOLVED** that two training sessions would be held in August 2009, as detailed above.

8. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

9. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following agenda items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified under Paragraph 2 of Part One of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, if and so long as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

10. **COMPLAINTS – UPDATE**

Reference 3-6/2/09

The Committee noted that the report from the external investigator was imminent and that an update would be provided at the next meeting of the Committee in September 2009.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE