

## MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

22 January 2008

7.30 p.m. – 8.28pm

### PRESENT

David Evans

### COUNCILLORS

Patrick McClarnon

Lesley Rideout

### APOLOGIES

Brian Spencer and Maggie Hulcoop

#### 19. CHAIR

In the absence of the Chair, Brian Spencer, David Evans chaired the meeting.

#### 20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

#### 21. MINUTES

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2007 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### 22. MATTERS ARISING

##### Members' Training (Minute 12)

**RESOLVED** to note that purdah training sessions for Members and Officers had been arranged for the 23 January 2008, 30 January and 20 February 2008.

#### 23. LOCAL AREA STANDARDS BOARD MEETING

Councillor Lesley Rideout and Independent Member, David Evans, gave a verbal update on the matters discussed at the last meeting of the Local Area Standards Board.

**RESOLVED** to note the verbal update.

24. **REVISED ROLE OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Mike White, gave a verbal update on the progress with the revisions to the role of the Standards Committee.

He advised that whilst the Committee had agreed at its last meeting to support an expansion of its role, the new terms of reference had not yet been adopted as the wider Constitutional Review, of which the revised terms of reference for the committee was included, had not yet been presented to Council. Council was expected to receive the report in March 2008.

The Committee noted that as a result of the Government's proposals to introduce locally based ethical regimes later in the year, it would be allocated a Reserve Fund, rather than a Budget, to enable it to undertake local determinations.

**RESOLVED** to note the verbal update.

25. **PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS TO IMPLEMENT LOCALLY BASED ETHICAL REGIME**

The Committee received a report outlining the Monitoring Officer's proposed response to the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) proposals for the introduction of a locally based ethical regime.

The Committee discussed at length each of the proposed responses to the 16 questions.

The Committee concurred with the points outlined in each response other than for Question 16, where it asked for the Monitoring Officer to prepare a more strongly worded objection to the suggestion that the new regime be introduced in April 2008.

**RESOLVED** that the Monitoring Officer would respond to the proposed arrangements for the new Locally Based Ethical Regime (as outlined in the report), subject to an amendment to the response to Question 16 to express more strongly the Committee's objection to the proposal that the new regime be implemented in April 2008.

26. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

27. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED** to note that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on 11 March 2008.

CHAIR OF COMMITTEE