

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Friday 9th June 2006

PRESENT : The Chair (John Lay), Councillors Dhall and Sanders; John Batey (Parish Council representative).

OFFICERS PRESENT : Jeremy Thomas (Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer), William Reed (Democratic Services Manager), Mike Newman (Head of Corporate Secretariat), Helen Lynch (trainee solicitor, Legal and Democratic Services Business Unit).

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE COUNCIL YEAR 2006/07

John Lay was elected Chair of the Committee for the Council Year 2006/07.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR FOR THE COUNCIL YEAR 2006/07

Resolved, in the absence of two of the independent members of the Committee, to defer the election of a Vice-Chair for the Council Year 2006/07 until the next meeting of the Committee.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hollander and from Chris Turner (independent member).

4. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

Resolved to note membership of the Committee for the Council Year 2006/07 as set out in the note (previously circulated, now appended) to the Committee.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Resolved to note the contents of the Guidance Note (previously circulated and now appended) on declaring interests at meetings.

6. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE

Resolved:-

- (1) to note the powers and duties of the Committee as adopted by Council on 18th May 2006 as set out in the note (previously circulated and now appended) to the Committee;
- (2) in relation to item 8 of the powers and duties, to ask that the District Auditor's Management Letter and any report to the Executive Board on it be presented to the next meeting of the Committee;
- (3) to note the presentation made by the Monitoring Officer on the Committee's role and responsibilities.

7. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

8. MINUTES

Resolved that the minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of the Committee held on 28th April 2006 be confirmed.

9. COMPLAINTS MONITORING AND OVERSEEING

The Chief Executive submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended) together with details (circulated, now appended), for the City Works Business Unit.

Resolved that the report be received and its contents noted.

10. MEMBER TRAINING

The Monitoring Officer reported that induction training of various sorts had been delivered to new members of Council and to Councillors serving on particular Committees for the first time. He reported in outline on the emerging member development programme. The programme would, among other things, cover Code of Conduct, probity and governance issues. The independent and Parish Council representatives on this Committee would be invited to those aspects of the programme.

Resolved:-

- (1) to note the position;

- (2) to ask the Monitoring Officer to arrange training for the Committee on a date before its next meeting on the local determination of alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct for members.

11. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - REVIEW

The Democratic Services Manager submitted a letter (previously circulated and now appended) that contained the Committee's reviews on the Government's Discussion Paper "Standards of Conduct in English Local Government; the Future". He said that he had not as yet been able to ascertain the Government's programme for taking forward the various matters in the Paper.

Resolved:-

- (1) to note the position;
- (2) to ask the Democratic Services Manager to advise members on the proposed "public service interest" category in the Discussion Paper.

12. STANDARDS COMMITTEES INDEPENDENT MEMBERS' FORUM

Resolved to receive and note the contents of the minutes (previously circulated and now appended) of the Standards Committees Independent Members' Forum meeting held on 21st April 2006.

13. DATES OF FUTURE MEETING

Resolved to note that the dates of meetings of the Committee (all at 10.30 am) in the Council Year 2006/07 would be as follows if there was business to warrant holding the meetings:-

Friday 8th September 2006
Friday 1st December 2006
Friday 9th March 2007.

The meeting commenced at 10.30 am and closed at 11.35 pm.