

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Friday 7th December 2007

PRESENT: The Chair (John Lay), the Vice-Chair (Chris Turner), Councillors Dhall, Hollander, Kent and Sargent; Chris Ballinger, Meryll Dean and Martin Gardner (independent members); Fred Mogridge (Parish Council representative).

Anne Gwinnett (who had been appointed by Council to serve as an independent member as from 1st June 2008 was also in attendance).

OFFICERS PRESENT: the Chief Executive (Peter Sloman), the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer (Jeremy Thomas), the Democratic Services Manager (William Reed).

21. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed to the meeting the newly appointed independent members and the Parish Council representative. All present at the meeting introduced themselves.

22. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

23. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE

The Democratic Services Manager submitted a note (previously circulated and now appended) setting out the Committee's powers and duties. The Chair explained that the Committee's powers and duties were wider than those of many other local authority Standards Committees. He pointed to the Committee's powers and duties in respect of complaints monitoring and of considering relevant matters in the Audit Commission annual Management Letter and other Audit Commission correspondence.

The Committee noted the position.

24. MINUTES

Resolved that the minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of the Committee held on 7th September 2007 be confirmed as a correct record.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Tuesday 13th February 2008

PRESENT : The Chair (John Lay), the Vice-Chair (Chris Turner), Councillors Hollander, Sanders and Sargent; Chris Ballinger, Meryll Dean and Martin Gardiner (Independent Members); Fred Mogridge (Parish Council representative).

Anne Gwinnett (who had been appointed by Council to serve as an independent member as from 1st June 2008) was also in attendance.

OFFICERS PRESENT : Jeremy Thomas (Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer), William Reed (Democratic Services Manager).

20. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Dhall.

21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a guidance note (previously circulated and now appended) .

No declarations of interest were made by any member of the Committee.

22. ORDERS AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE CONDUCT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS IN ENGLAND – GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that the suggested response contained in the Annex to the report should form the Council's response to the Consultation Paper with the following additions and alterations:-

- (a) To endorse paragraph 3 of the report that related to the introduction of the locally based ethical conduct regime and to ask that the Council's concerns also be brought to the attention of Oxford's two MPs;
- (b) To endorse paragraph 2 of the report that related to the bringing into full operation of paragraph 2(3) of the Members' Code of Conduct that concerned behaviour that had led to a criminal conviction;