

Monday 12 July 2010  
at 6.00pm



# Standards Committee

**MEMBERS:** Mr J VESELY (Independent Representative and Chairman), Mr T ELLIOTT (Independent Representative), Mr J LIBECCIO (Independent Representative), Councillors Mrs HOWLETT, TAYLOR, TESTER and Miss WOODALL.

(Apologies for absence were reported from Councillors Mrs Goodall and Goodwin).

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## 1 Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2010 were submitted and approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

## 2 Declarations of Interest.

None were received.

## 3 Standards Board Regime – Latest News.

The Committee considered the report of the Monitoring Officer regarding recent developments relating to the Standards Board Regime.

The Government proposed to introduce provisions in the Decentralisation and Localism Bill to abolish the Standards Board regime. Standards for England had stated that until the implications of the proposal had been made clear, the Council's statutory duties, including the assessment of allegations would continue. The Local Government Minister had stated that the Bill would also end "predetermination" which restricts the ability of members to take part in decision making where they have campaigned or expressed a given view. The Committee broadly welcomed the proposals.

The Committee was advised that following the announcement the Annual Assembly of Standards Committee due to take place in October had been cancelled.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

## 4 Monitoring Complaints of Member Misconduct.

The Committee considered the report of the Monitoring Officer regarding alleged breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct.

It was noted that no complaints had been received in the second quarter of 2010. One complaint remained outstanding from the first quarter and was scheduled to be submitted to a review sub-committee for consideration following an appeal against the decision of an assessment sub-committee.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

## **5 Standards Issues.**

The Chairman reported on a recent meeting with the Chief and Deputy Chief Executive to discuss the role and work of the Standards Committee in respect of training on the Code and the new governance arrangements. The proposal made at the last meeting of the Committee to produce an annual report on the work of the Committee had been supported.

The Monitoring Officer reported that standards issues were discussed at regular meetings held with the Deputy Chief Executive.

The Committee suggested that to ensure a rigorous approach to standards was maintained a meeting is arranged to brief the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition.

**RESOLVED:** That a meeting to discuss standards matters be arranged with the Independent Members and the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition.

The meeting closed at 6.20pm.

**J Vesely  
Chairman**