

# MINUTES

meeting: **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

date: **30 JULY 2009**

## **PRESENT:-**

Mr W A Parker (Chair)  
Councillors Miles, Pugh and Wynne  
Mr K R Aithal, Professor G W Hurd, Mr A W Lee and  
Mr R C Tyler-Morris

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:-**

Apologies for absence was submitted on behalf of The Mayor,  
Councillor Duhra, Councillor Mrs Mills and Mr J Harris

## **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:-**

### Customer and Shared Services

S Kembrey - Chief Legal Officer  
F Davis - Group Manager (Advocacy Services)

### Office of the Chief Executive

P Tedstone - Democratic Services Manager (For Agenda  
Item 6)  
M Fox - Democratic Support Officer

**Wolverhampton**  
City Council



**Declarations of Interest**

1 No interests were declared.

**Minutes**

2 Resolved:-  
That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2009 be approved as a correct record.

**Schedule of Outstanding Minutes (Appendix 1/1)**

A report was submitted which gave an indication of dates on which reports on individual items would be submitted for consideration. The Chief Legal Officer indicated that, in connection with the item relating to Protocol for Member/Officer Relationships, training would be arranged for Members and officers at an appropriate time.

3 Resolved:-  
That the schedule be received.

**Honorary Alderman - Conferment of Title (Appendix 1/2)**

The Democratic Services Manager presented a report which recommended that an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council be convened to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillor Trudy Bowen. It was noted that the reference to Mr Hart in paragraph 5.1 of the report should be amended to read Mrs Bowen. Members passed comment on the long and distinguished service of Trudy Bowen as a Member of the Council.

4 Resolved:-  
That an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council be convened on 4 November 2009 to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillor Trudy Bowen.

**The Standards Committee (Further Provisions) (England) Regulations 2009/Guidance (Appendix 1/3)**

The Chief Legal Officer presented a report which drew the Committee's attention to the Standards Committee (Further Provisions) (England) Regulations 2009 which came into force on 15 June 2009, together with the guidance received from the Standards Board for England on the granting of dispensations. She added that it was likely that some training would be offered in due course on the granting of dispensations.

5 Resolved:-  
(a) That the Standards Committee (Further Provisions) (England) Regulations 2009 be noted.  
  
(b) That the guidance received from the Standards Board for England on the granting of dispensations be noted.

**Monitoring Officer's Report (Appendix 1/4)**

The Group Manager (Advocacy Services) presented a report which provided an update on local assessment arrangements, Bulletin 44 as issued by the Standards Board for England, together with the publication "Probity Planning: The Role of Councillors and Officers - Revised Guidance Note on Good Planning Practice for Councillors and Officers Dealing with Planning Matters". In discussion, it was suggested that the Planning Committee be recommended to hold a Seminar about the publication of the planning guidance and that a copy of the guidance note should be placed in the Members' Room. A discussion also took place regarding the filtering out of cases where it was not appropriate to proceed to assessment and it was suggested that representations be made to the Standards Board for England, urging that officers be given the power to filter out cases where there were no real grounds for a case to be answered.

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Resolved:-

(a) That the report be noted.

(b) That the publication "Probity Planning : The Role of Councillors and Officers - Revised Guidance Note on Good Planning Practice for Councillors and Officers Dealing with Planning Matters" as published by the Local Government Association, be referred to the Planning Committee.

(c) That the Planning Committee be recommended to hold a Seminar about the publication detailed in (b) above.

(d) That it be agreed to place a copy of the Guidance Note detailed in (b) above in the Members' Room.

(e) That it be noted that the Chair will write to the Standards Board for England urging that officers be given the power to filter out cases where there are no real grounds for a case to be answered.