

# M I N U T E S

meeting: **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

date: **19 NOVEMBER 2009**

## **PRESENT:-**

Mr W A Parker (Chair)  
Councillors Duhra, Gwinnett, Miles, Pugh and Wynne  
Mr K R Aithal, Mr J Harris, Mr G W Hurd (Independent Members)

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:-**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs Mills, Mr A W Lee and Mr R C Tyler-Morris

## **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:-**

### Customer and Shared Services

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

### Office of the Chief Executive

P Tedstone - Democratic Services Manger  
L Banbury - Democratic Support Officer

**Wolverhampton**  
City Council



**Welcome**

7. The Chairman welcome students from the City of Wolverhampton College who were attending the meeting as part of their studies.

**Declarations of Interest**

8. No interests were declared.

**Minutes**

9. Resolved:-  
That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 July 2009 be approved as a correct record.

**Honorary Alderman – Conferment of Title**

Pursuant to resolution 4 the Committee noted that, due to illness, Mrs Bowen had been unable to attend the Council meeting on 4 November to receive her Honorary Alderman Badge of Office and that she was still in hospital. The Democratic Services Manager advised that the Mayor had agreed to receive Mrs Bowen in the Parlour when she had recovered to mark the occasion. It was:-

10. Resolved:-  
That a letter be sent to Mrs Bowen expressing the Committee's best wishes for her speedy recovery.

**Probity in Planning: The Role of Councillors and Officers- Revised Guidance Note on Good Planning Practice for Councillors and Officers Dealing with Planning Matters**

11. Pursuant to minute 6, the Committee were advised that the Planning Committee was due to consider this guidance at a Member training session scheduled to take place on 8 December 2009.

**Schedule of Outstanding Minutes (Appendix 1/5)**

The Democratic Support Officer presented a report, which gave an indication of dates on which reports on individual outstanding items would be submitted for consideration. The Group Manager (Advocacy Services) advised that a training event had been held in October for staff from the Adults and Community Service on the Protocol for Member/Officer Relationships.

12. Resolved:-  
That the report be received.

**Feedback from Annual Standards Assembly**

13. The Chairman and Monitoring Officer had attended the Annual Assembly, which was held in Birmingham on 12 and 13 October 2009, and provided feedback to Members at the meeting. The Monitoring Officer urged other Members of the Panel to attend this interesting and informative forum in the future.

The Chairman indicated that, in accordance with the recommendations of the Standards Board for England, he would be meeting regularly with the Leader and Shadow Leader of the Council and it was agreed that they should be invited to attend the Standards Committee on an annual basis.

**Establishment of Independent Remuneration Panel (Appendix 1/6)**

The Monitoring Officer presented a report, which drew Members' attention to the requirement within the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 for Council's to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel, to make recommendations on the level of basic and special responsibility allowances. For a number of years the Council, together with Dudley and Sandwell Council's, had been advised on levels of Members' Allowances by a Black Country Boroughs Members' Allowances Independent Panel. That Panel no longer operated as both Dudley and Sandwell had made alternative arrangements. Appended to the report, for Members' information, were details of Birmingham City Council's arrangements.

The Monitoring Officer advised that the Remuneration Panel should be entirely independent of the Authority and the inclusion of Standards Committee Independent Members could not therefore be considered. It was acknowledged that consideration of the criteria for the establishment of the Panel should take place as soon as possible to enable the Group to consider the review of allowances for the next municipal year.

14. Resolved:-
- (a) That the proposal for the establishment of an Independent Remuneration Panel be approved.
  - (b) That the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Mr Hurd, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, be authorised to formulate the criteria for the establishment of the Independent Remuneration Panel, to approve the arrangements for advertising for prospective members and to interview candidates.

**Monitoring Officer's Report (Appendix 1/7)**

The Group Manager (Advocacy Services) presented a report, which provided an update on local assessment arrangements and Standards Board for England publications.

15. Resolved:-
- That the report be noted.

**Executive Arrangements – Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (Appendix 1/8)**

The Democratic Services Manager presented a report, which advised the Committee of the requirement for the Council to adopt a revised model of governance in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the decision of Council on 4 November 2009 regarding the preferred model for Wolverhampton City Council and arrangements for a period of public consultation to be undertaken.

16. Resolved:-  
That the report be noted.