

# M I N U T E S

meeting: **STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
(ASSESSMENT SUB-COMMITTEE)**

date: **23 FEBRUARY 2010**

**PRESENT:-**

Councillor Pugh  
Mr R Aithal and Mr G W Hurd (Independent Members)

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:-**

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Miles

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:-**

Customer and Shared Services

P Devonald - Consultant Solicitor

Office of the Chief Executive

L Banbury - Democratic Support Officer

**Wolverhampton**  
City Council



**PART I – OPEN ITEMS**

**Election of Chair**

- 17 Resolved:-  
That Mr K R Aithal be elected as Chair of the Assessment Sub-Committee for this meeting.

**Declarations of Interest**

- 18 The Chair reported that, in his previous capacity as a Magistrate, he had been a colleague of the subject of the complaint in agenda item 6 for a short period of time. The Solicitor advised that this would not prejudice his position as Chair of this Sub-Committee.

**Exclusion of Press and Public**

- 19 Resolved:-  
That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from consideration of the items of business in Part II of the agenda, on the grounds that in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, exempt information falling within paragraph 7c of Schedule 12A to the Act (information presented to a Standards Committee under S58 of the Local Government Act 2000) is likely to be disclosed.

**PART II – EXEMPT ITEMS**

**Complaints under the Members' Code of Conduct**

The Solicitor presented a report, which advised the Sub-Committee of two complaints which had been received that a Member of the City Council had failed to follow the Members' Code of Conduct. The purpose of the meeting was for the Sub-Committee to decide whether any action should be taken in connection with the complaints and, if so, the nature of that action. There were inherent complexities in this case which were noted by the Sub-Committee.

Having considered the complaint in accordance with the initial tests outlined in section 3 of the report, the Sub-Committee unanimously:-

- 20 Resolved:-  
That, in accordance with Section 57A(2) of the Local Government Act 2000, as amended, these allegations be referred to the Standards for England for investigation on the grounds of the serious nature of the allegations and the potential conflict for Members of the Standards Committee who were present at the Council meeting referred to.

**Complaint under the Members' Code of Conduct**

The Solicitor presented a report, which advised the Sub-Committee of a complaint which had been received that a Member of the City Council had failed to follow the Members' Code of Conduct. The purpose of the meeting was for the Sub-Committee to decide whether any action should be taken in connection with the complaint and, if so, the nature of that action.

Having considered the complaint in accordance with the initial tests outlined in section 3 of the report, the Sub-Committee unanimously:-

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Resolved:-

That, in accordance with Section 57A(2) of the Local Government Act 2000, as amended, this allegation be referred to the Monitoring Officer for conciliation. In the event that this is unsuccessful, the complaint will be referred back to the Assessment Sub-Committee for further consideration.