

# MINUTES

meeting: **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

date: **4 MARCH 2010**

## **PRESENT:-**

Mr W A Parker (Chair)  
Councillors Duhra, Gwinnett, Miles, Mrs Mills and Pugh  
Mr G W Hurd, Mr A W Lee and Mr R C Tyler-Morris (Independent Members)

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:-**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Wynne, Mr K R Aithal and Mr J Harris

## **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



**Declarations of Interest**

22 No interests were declared.

**Minutes**

23 Resolved:-

(a) That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2009 be approved as a correct record.

(b) That the minutes of the meeting of the Assessment Sub-Committee held on 23 February 2010 be approved as a correct record and adopted.

**Assessment Sub-Committee**

A Member expressed concern regarding the delayed notification to the subjects of complaints to the Monitoring Officer that they had failed to follow the Members' Code of Conduct. It was:-

24 Resolved:-

That, in future, notifications to Members who have been the subject of a complaint that they have failed to follow of the Members' Code of Conduct be posted within seven working days and that a follow up letter be sent to advise of the date of the Assessment Sub-Committee.

**Schedule of Outstanding Minutes (Appendix 1/9)**

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.

25 Resolved:-

That the report be received.

**Independent Remuneration Panel (Appendix 1/10)**

The Democratic Services Manager presented a report, which detailed the current composition of the Independent Remuneration Panel and recommended approval to the continuation of the current Members' Allowances scheme from 1 April 2010 until the Council considered the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel. It was noted that the Independent Remuneration Panel's report would be presented to this Committee for recommendation to Council, hopefully at the Annual Meeting on 19 May 2010.

26 Resolved:-

(a) That the current composition of the Independent Remuneration Panel be noted.

(b) That the Council be recommended to approve the continuation of the current scheme of Members' Allowances until the

Council considers the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on the Review of Allowances.

**Monitoring Officer's Report (Appendix 1/11)**

The Monitoring presented a report, which provided an update on the following:-

- Local Assessments (quarterly data returns)
- Publications (Bulletin Number 46)
- Standards Board Annual Assembly (attendance by Chair and Monitoring Officer)
- Monitoring Officers' Conference (Attendance by Deputy Monitoring Officer)
- Simple Standards Framework (proposed changes to current arrangements)
- Relationship and Risk Based Assessment (proposal to allocate a Relationship Manager to every local authority)

The Monitoring Officer advised that draft response to the consultation on the Simpler Standards Framework would be presented to this Committee for consideration.

27

Resolved:-

(a) That the report be received.

(b) That attendance at the Standards Board Annual Assembly to be extend to include the Deputy Monitoring Officer and a further independent member.

**Joint Meeting with the Audit Committee**

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It was noted that the next meeting would be joint with the Audit Committee. The Monitoring Officer undertook to arrange a meeting between the two Chairs to discuss a closer working relationship between the two Committees.