

MINUTES

meeting: **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

date: **4 MARCH 2011**

PRESENT:-

Mr W A Parker (Chairman)
Councillors Gwinnett, Jones, Mrs Mills, Turner and Wynne
Mr K R Aithal, Mr J Harris, Mr A W Lee and
Mr R C Tyler-Morris (Independent Members)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:-

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Miles and Mr Hurd

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:-

Customer and Shared Services

P Main - Chief Financial Officer
F Davis - Group Manager (Advocacy Services)

Office of the Chief Executive

L Banbury - Democratic Support Officer

Wolverhampton
City Council



Declarations of Interest

68 No interests were declared.

Minutes

69 Resolved:-

(a) That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2011 be approved as a correct record.

(b) That the minutes of the meeting of the Assessment Sub-Committee held on 13 January 2011 be approved as a correct record and adopted.

Schedule of Outstanding Minutes (Appendix 2)

The Democratic Support Officer submitted a report, which set out a schedule of outstanding minutes.

70 Resolved:-

That the report be received.

Revision of the Constitution 2010/2011 – Leading for a Stronger City (Appendix 3)

The Group Manager presented a report, which advised the Committee of necessary revisions to the Constitution as a result of the Senior Management Restructure (Leading for a Stronger City), together with a number of updating amendments.

The Democratic Support Officer circulated an extract of the Synopsis of Decisions, arising from the Special Advisory Group meeting on 1 March 2011. In this regard, the Group Manager advised that the reference in the delegations to officers on 'Delegations to the Developing and Supporting the Organisation Cabinet Team' would remain in the Constitution.

During the ensuing discussion Members, in agreeing to the proposal to delete the 'Limits on Delegation' section in regard to planning applications, as outlined in section 4.2.4 of the report, stressed the need for an assurance that the deletion would not prejudice the interests of the public.

A Member questioned whether the Children and Young People's Plan was still a statutory document and if not, should it be deleted from the Constitution. The Group Manager undertook to check this and to amend the Constitution accordingly when the next 'housekeeping' report was presented.

71 Resolved:-

That the revisions to the Constitution, incorporating changes made as a result of the Senior Management Restructure – Leading for

a Stronger Council, be approved for submission to full Council, subject to:-

- the Section 151 Officer responsibilities in Part 3 - Responsibilities for Functions – Section 19 Delegations to Officers, be grouped together under one heading with a note indicating that the responsibilities are delegated to the Section 151 Officer who reports to the Strategic Director for Delivery;
- Section A5 on the introduction to the Delegation to Officers remains and the Chief Legal Officer authorised to draft guidelines on what should constitute a 'complex or sensitive' matter, for comment by the Group Leaders and thereafter signed off by the Chair of the Special Advisory Group for the guidelines to be submitted to Council for approval.
- Part 3/87 – Delegation to Officers, Schedule – Limits on Delegation (decision on planning applications cannot be made in less than 28 days unless the decision is made by Committee) to be deleted. However, appropriate wording to be produced for inclusion in relevant guidelines and approved by the Chairman of the Standards Committee, to ensure that the interests of the public are not prejudiced by the deletion.
- the insertion of the following new delegation at F45 – 'In consultation with the Assistance Director (Governance) to authorise legal proceedings under paragraphs F28, F33, F39, F41 and F44'.

Monitoring Officer's Report (Appendix 4)

The Group Manager (Advocacy Services) submitted a report, which presented information in regard the future of Standards for England and local assessment.

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Resolved:-

That the report be received.