

MINUTES

meeting: **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

date: **8 SEPTEMBER 2011**

PRESENT:-

Councillors Mrs Bradley, O'Neill, Mrs Samuels, T Singh, T H Turner and Wynne.

Mr R Aithal, Mr G W Hurd, Mr A W Lee, Mr W Parker and Mr R C Tyler-Morris (Independent Members)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:-

Delivery Directorate

L Banbury	-	Democratic Support Officer
F Davis	-	Group Manager (Advocacy Services)
D Johnston	-	Head of Risk Management and Insurance

Wolverhampton
City Council



Declarations of Interest

- 26 Councillors Mrs Bradley, O'Neill, Mrs Samuels, Turner and Wynne declared personal and prejudicial interests in respect of agenda item 6 (Request for Dispensation – Equal Pay).

Minutes

- 27 Resolved:-
- (a) That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 July 2011 be approved as a correct record.
 - (b) That the meeting of the joint meeting of the Audit and Standards Committees, held on 28 July 2011, be approved as a correct record and adopted.
 - (c) That the minutes of the meeting of the Review Sub-Committee held on 28 July 2011 be approved as a correct record and adopted.
 - (d) That the minutes of the meeting of the Assessment Sub-Committee held on 28 July 2011 be approved as a correct record and adopted.

Allegations of Misconduct

- 28 It was noted that a report, recommending the establishment of some measures to gauge satisfaction in respect of the Standards Committee procedures, would be presented to the next meeting.

Schedule of Outstanding Minutes (Appendix 18)

The Democratic Support Officer submitted a report, which set out a schedule of outstanding minutes, together with an indication as to when it was expected that reports on individual items would be presented for consideration.

- 29 Resolved:-
That the report be received.

Request for Dispensation – Equal Pay (Appendix 19)

The Group Manager presented a report, which sought consideration of a dispensation for Members with a prejudicial interest in Single Status/Equal matters, to participate in Council business relating to Single Status/Equal Pay.

All political groups had been requested to inform the Monitoring Officer of Member Interests which were likely to be raised in relation to single status/equal pay matters, with a view to managing the decision making process if 50% or more Members would be declaring an interest which may be prejudicial. A list of the responses received to

date was circulated at the meeting. During the ensuing discussion, the following Member Interests were also highlighted:-

- Councillor Mrs Bradley - Two daughters working for the Authority (not one as indicated on response sheet)
- Councillor Minhas - School Governor. Family employment in a School
- Councillor Wynne - Family member employed in a School (in addition to information on response sheet)

Members requested clarification on 'family member' in terms of how far this category extended.

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Resolved:-

(a) That the report be received.

(b) That approval be given to a dispensation, for an initial period of 12 months, for Members with a prejudicial interest in single status/Equal Pay matters, to participate in Council business relating to Single Status/Equal Pay.

(c) That a reminder be sent to all Members to respond to the request for details of interests; that the correspondence clarifies the question regarding what constitutes a family Member and reminds Members of the obligation to declare interests at the time of decision making.

Monitoring Officer's Report (Appendix 20)

The Group Manager presented a report, which drew attention to matters in regard to the future of Standards for England, the Standards regime and local assessment.

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Resolved:-

That the report be received.