

M I N U T E S

meeting: **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

date: **19 APRIL 2012**

PRESENT:-

Mr W Parker (Chair);
Councillors O'Neill, Mrs Samuels, T Singh and Wynne.
Mr J Harris, 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 Councillors
Mrs Bradley, Gwinnett and Turner and Mr K R Aithal.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:-

Delivery Directorate

M Costello	-	Project Manager
F Davis	-	Group Manager (Regulatory and Governance)
D Francis	-	Democratic Services Officer
D Johnston	-	Head of Risk Management and Insurance
S Kembrey	-	Assistant Director Governance Services
P Tedstone	-	Democratic Services Manager

Wolverhampton
City Council



Declarations of Interest

52. No interests were declared.

Minutes

53. Resolved:-
That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Minutes - Joint Meeting of Audit and Standards Committees - 17 January 2012

54. Resolved:-
That the minutes of the Joint Meeting of Audit and Standards Committees held on 17 January 2012 be approved as a correct record.

Assessment Sub-Committee – meeting, 7 February 2012

55. Resolved:-
That the minutes of the meeting of the Assessment Sub Committee held on 7 February 2012 be approved as a correct record.

Schedule of Outstanding Minutes (Appendix 28)

The Committee received, for information, 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.

56. Resolved:-
That the report be received.

Comprehensive Review of the Constitution (Appendix 29)

S Kembrey, Assistant Director Governance Services presented a report on detailed proposed revisions to the May 2011 edition of the Constitution as updated by Council on 13 July 2011 and 8 February 2012. In doing so she thanked the officers involved in the work on revising the Constitution.

She also advised the Committee of a request received from the new Director of Pensions, Geik Drever that consideration be given to a change in the name of the Superannuation Committee to 'Pensions Committee'. The Leader of the Council, the Chair of the Special Advisory Group and the Chief Executive had been consulted on the request and had raised no objection. Subject to the views of the Standards Committee she recommended that the request be approved.

During the ensuing discussion and in response to a comment from Councillor Samuels about training on scrutiny, it was reported that the induction meeting on 24 May for newly elected Councillors would present an opportunity for existing Councillors to receive refresher

training on the current scrutiny principles and processes. In term of training for Councillors on the proposed changes to the scrutiny arrangements, this would take place following consideration of a report by Cabinet on 30 May, Scrutiny Board's review of Ann Reeder's proposals and a Council decision on the way forward for how scrutiny would operate. Training for all Councillors, Co-opted and Independent Members and officers on the revisions to the Constitution would take place in June 2012.

The Chair noted that back in May 2011 Annual Council had approved the undertaking of the comprehensive review of the Constitution with the aim for the new Constitution being published in May 2012 in time for approval by Annual Council 2012. He was please to note that this objective had been achieved and he complimented the officers for meeting that objective.

57. Resolved:-

(a) That the detailed proposed revisions of the Constitution as set out in Section 3 of the report be approved for submission to the Annual Council meeting on 16 May 2012.

(b) That it be noted that the Chair of the Special Advisory Group in consultation with the Assistant Director, Governance Services was authorised at the Special Advisory Group to approve dates for the carrying out of comprehensive training for all Councillors, Co-opted and Independent Members and Officers on the revisions to the Constitution following the Annual Council meeting on 16 May 2012 and prior to the 'go live' date for the Constitution on 1 July.

(c) That it be noted that the Chair of the Special Advisory Group in consultation with the Assistant Director, Governance Services was authorised at the Special Advisory Group to approve minor amendments to the Constitution prior to its submission to Annual Council on 16 May 2012.

(d) That references to the Superannuation Committee in the Constitution be changed to Pensions Committee.