

M I N U T E S

meeting: **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

date: **9 MAY 2013**

PRESENT:-

Councillors Turner (Chair), O'Neill, T Singh, and Wynne

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:-

Delivery Directorate

L Banbury - Democratic Support Officer
F Davis - Head of Service (Regeneration & Governance)

BY INVITATION:-

S Hill - Independent Person

Wolverhampton
City Council



Declarations of Interest

9. No interests were declared.

Minutes

10. Resolved:-
That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2012 be approved as a correct record.

Honorary Alderman – Conferment of Title

Pursuant to resolutions 7 and 8, a discussion took place regarding the Council's service criterion for the conferment of the Title of Honorary Alderman, which currently stood at twenty years. Councillors were of the opinion that the required length of service was extensive compared to other local authorities.

11. Resolved:-
That a report be produced for the next scheduled meeting, comparing Wolverhampton's service criterion for the conferment of the Title of Honorary Alderman with neighbouring authorities.

Schedule of Outstanding Minutes (Appendix 8)

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. She advised that the outstanding report on the revised Whistleblowing Policy would be presented to the next joint meeting with the Audit Committee.

12. Resolved:-
That the report be received.

Comprehensive Review of the Constitution (Appendix 9)

The Head of Service (Regeneration and Governance) drew attention to the summary of proposed changes, which were approved by the Special Advisory Group on 22 April 2013. She advised that the Councillor N A Patten had raised a question about the section in regard to delegations to employees, specifically in regard to the installation of telecommunications. However, following discussion after the meeting the Councillor had confirmed his endorsement of the amendment.

The proposed changes to the Constitution in regard to overview and scrutiny would not be revised in time for the Annual Council meeting. These changes were due to be considered by the Standards Committee in June for approval by full Council in September. However, there was one issue, not debated by the Special Advisory Group but arising from the review of scrutiny which required this Committee's

consideration, namely the call-in urgency procedures. The proposed amendment was tabled at the meeting which, in summary, deleted reference to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and replaced it with Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer.

13.

Resolved:-

(a) That the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules remain unchanged at the present time, pending consideration by the Standards Committee in June 2013 for approval by full Council in September.

(b) That the Call-in Urgency procedures be amended in accordance with the paper tabled at the meeting today.

(c) That, subject to (a) and (b) above, the summary of changes to the Constitution May 2013 be approved and arrangements made to present the changes to Annual Council on 15 May 2013 for approval.