

Special Standards Committee

Thursday 8 May, 2008 at 6.00 p.m.

at the Council House, Walsall

Present

Mr. R. Meller (Chairman)
Mr. L. Bates (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor A. Underhill
Dr. K. Biscomb
Ms. K. McLeod

261/08 Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Mrs. H. Bashir and Councillor Woodruff.

261/08 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

262/08 Local initial assessment of complaints

The report of the Assistant Director of Legal and Constitutional Services was submitted:

(see annexed)

The Assistant Director of Legal and Constitutional Services presented his report. Following comprehensive discussions regarding the establishment of Sub-Committees to assess and review complaints, it was recommended that a timetable of cases for the forthcoming year be prepared and it was further recommended that this timetable be brought before the next meeting of the Standards Committee in early June for approval.

The Assistant Director of Legal and Constitutional Services answered questions raised by the Committee arising from the report, following which it was:

Resolved

- (a) That the content of the report be noted.
- (b) That the following be recommended to Council:
 - (1) That three Sub-Committees of the Standards Committee be appointed for 2008/2009 as set out in the report;
 - (2) That each of the Sub-Committees:
 - (i) be populated, as and when required, from members who have been appointed to the Standards Committee
 - (ii) are chaired by an independent member
 - (iii) have a quorum of 3 and maximum membership of 5
 - (3) That a member who has determined an initial assessment cannot sit on a Sub-Committee convened to review an earlier decision they were party to making;
 - (4) That the amended terms of reference for the Standards Committee as set out in Appendix A to the report, be adopted and that the Constitution be amended accordingly.
- (c) That the Assistant Director of Legal and Constitutional Services be delegated responsibility to produce and implement such templates and procedures as he considers necessary to ensure that that new regulations can be complied with, in the event a complaint is received before they can be considered by the Standards Committee.
- (d) That the Assistant Director for Legal and Constitutional services secure training for all members of the Council upon the changes and for members of the Standards Committee upon implementing the changes.

- (e) That the notice (appendix B) be publicised as set out in the report.
- (f) That a timetable of dates for initial assessment Sub-Committees be prepared for the forthcoming municipal year and that this be brought before the next meeting of the Committee for approval.

263/08 **Standards Board for England – The Bulletin No. 38**

The report of the Assistant Director of Legal and Constitutional Services was submitted:

(see annexed)

The Assistant Director of Legal and Constitutional Services presented his report and answered questions raised by the Committee arising from the report, following which it was:

Resolved

- (1) That the content of the report be noted;
- (2) That copies of the Bulletin be circulated to all members and co-optees and placed in each of the political group rooms.

The meeting terminated at 6.40 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: