

Standards Committee

Wednesday 26 March, 2008 at 6.00 p.m.

at the Council House, Walsall

Present

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

248/08 Apology

An apology for non-attendance was submitted on behalf of Mrs. H. Bashir.

249/08 Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 January 2008, a copy having been circulated previously to each member of the Committee, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

250/08 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

251/08 Timetable for standards items for Standards Committee 2008/2009

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 contents of the report be noted.
- (2) That the Committee agrees the timetable of agenda items to be submitted during the municipal year 2008/2009.

253/08 Council publicity – run up to elections

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 the Monitoring Officer be requested to forward a copy of this report to the group leaders (independent members) to bring the report to the attention of their members;
- (3) That the Assistant Director be requested to write to all Chief Officers informing them of the provisions of the Code.

254/08 Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act – checklist of local authorities in the run up to April 2008

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 the Assistant Director of Legal and Constitutional Services work towards the establishment of two Sub-Committees to look at the receipt and assessment of complaints and review of local assessment decisions which follow the guidelines on Committee membership that will be recommended by the Standards Board;
- (3) That the Assistant Director of Legal and Constitutional Services distribute guidance that is to be published by the Standards Board to all Committee members for their information in addition to the leaders of all political parties;
- (4) That the Assistant Director of Legal and Constitutional Services and the Standards Committee work towards the development of a criteria for local assessments as soon as the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act becomes law;
- (5) That the Assistant Director of Legal and Constitutional Services and members of the Standards Committee develop an information leaflet which addresses the local assessments that can be distributed to the local community;
- (6) That the Assistant Director of Legal and Constitutional Services issue all members of the Standards Committee with copies of relevant information and process details from the Standards Board for their information in addition to details of monitoring guidance (again to be issued by the Standards Board).

255/08 **Case Law update**

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 which it was:

Resolved

- (1) That the content of the report be noted;
- (2) That the Monitoring Officer circulate the report to all elected members.

259/08 **Role of Councillors - Report of the All Party Parliamentary Local Government Group**

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 which it was:

Resolved

- (1) That the content of the report be noted;
- (2) That the 22 recommendations for further action be noted by the Committee.

260/08 **Standards Board for England – The Bulletin**

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 which it was:

Resolved

- (1) That the content of the report and the Bulletin 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 7.18 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: