

Standards Committee

Thursday 3 January, 2008 at 6.00 p.m.

at the Council House, Walsall

Present

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

Mrs. H. Bashir (observer)

238/08 Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillor V. Woodruff and Ms. K. McLeod.

239/08 Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 October, 2007, a copy having been circulated previously to each member of the Committee, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

240/08 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

241/08 Freedom of Information Act, 2000 – Annual review January 2006 to March 2007

The report of the Executive Director, Regeneration was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the report be noted;
- (2) That annual reports on Freedom of Information be received on an on-going basis.

242/08 **Appointment of independent member to Standards Committee**

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

That the content of the report be noted.

243/08 **Recruitment of independent member to Standards Committee**

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 recruitment process for the three vacancies for independent members be supported and that the recommended period of office be until the end of the municipal year 2010/2011.

244/08 **Sixth Annual Assembly of Standards Committees – 15 and 16 October 2007**

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

That the content of the report be noted.

245/08 **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 and answered questions raised by the Committee arising from the 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.

246/08 **Role of Councillors – Report of the All 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 and answered questions raised by the Committee arising from the report, following which it was:

Resolved

- (1) That content and recommendations of the report be noted.
- (2) That Group Leaders be requested to bring the report to the attention of their members to facilitate a debate at a political level and request their members to contact the Assistant Director of Legal and Constitutional Services directly if they have any views on the 45 recommendations set out in the report.
- (3) That the independent members of the Council be provided with a copy of the report and requested to forward their views to the Assistant Director of Legal and Constitutional Services.
- (4) That the Assistant Director of Legal and Constitutional Services bring a further report to the Committee providing the Council's position statement in relation to each of the recommendations.

247/08 **Members' attendance at Committees 2007/2008**

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 forward a copy of this report to each of the group leaders so that they are aware of members' attendance at Council and Committees.
- (3) That a questionnaire be prepared to be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee requesting additional background information from members.

The meeting terminated at 7.15 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: