

## **Standards Committee**

**Monday 1 July 2013 at 6.00 p.m.**

**at the Council House, Walsall**

### **Present**

Councillor A. Andrew  
Councillor Azam  
Councillor Burley  
Councillor Jeavons  
Councillor Martin  
Councillor Murray  
Councillor Phillips  
Councillor Underhill

### **In attendance**

Mr. C. Topliss (Independent person)

#### **21/13 Appointment of Chairman**

##### **Resolved**

That Councillor Underhill be appointed Chairman of the Committee for the municipal year 2013/14.

#### **22/13 Appointment of Vice-Chairman**

##### **Resolved**

That Councillor Martin be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the municipal year 2013/14.

#### **23/13 Apology**

An apology for non-attendance was submitted on behalf of Dr. A. Senn (independent person).

#### **24/13 Minutes**

##### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2013 copies having been sent to each member of the Committee, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

25/13      **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

26/13      **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)**

There were no items to be considered in private session.

27/13      **Review of the Constitution**

The report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services was submitted:

(see annexed)

Mr. Garner, Head of Democratic Services, reminded the Committee that at its last meeting it was agreed that the Monitoring Officer would have the opportunity to make minor alterations to the Constitution in consultation with this Committee. After consideration by the Monitoring Officer it was his view that any changes, however minor, should be submitted to the Standards Committee and if agreed submitted to Council for approval. In order to implement this change it would be necessary to rescind resolution no. 20/13.

**Resolved**

- (1) That the amendments highlighted in the Appendix to the report now submitted be approved for inclusion in the updated Constitution to be recommended to Council at its annual meeting in June 2014.
- (2) That resolution no. 20/13 be rescinded relating to changes, however minor, to the Constitution to be submitted to Standards Committee for consideration and if agreed, for submission to Council.

28/13      **Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks for elected members**

The report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services was submitted:

(see annexed)

Members expressed concern that the regulated activity levels requiring a CRB check were being reduced and that this could impact on safeguarding. Members requested that their concerns be passed on.

In response to points raised, Mr. Garner, Head of Democratic Services, informed the Committee that the Police were returning CRB applications to the Council and advising that the Council's accreditation could be affected if the practice was continued as the regulations had been significantly relaxed.

Members asked whether multiple disclosures would continue under the revised system as this did seem to be over bureaucratic.

Members were concerned that the removal of disclosures could impact on the young as well as vulnerable adults.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the Head of HR be requested to write to the Disclosure and Barring Service to express the Committee's concerns on the changes to the CRB regime and the possible impact on children and vulnerable adults as a result of such changes and that a report on the outcome be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.
- (2) That elected members be informed that under new Regulations it was not now necessary for all members of the Council to undergo Criminal Records Bureau checks (now Disclosure and Barring Service checks).

The meeting terminated at 6.38 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: