

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Wednesday 4 August 2004 at 6.00 p.m.

at the Council House, Walsall

Present

Councillor O'Hare (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Khan
Councillor Robertson
Mr. L. Bates
Mr. R. Meller
Mrs. S.F. Parsons
Mr. R. Taylor

121/04 Appointment of Chairman

Resolved

That Mr. R. Meller be appointed Chairman of the Standards Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2004/2005.

Mr. R. Meller in the Chair

122/04 Appointment of Vice-Chairman

The report of the Assistant Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Councillor O'Hare advised members that he been appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee by Council at its meeting on 30 June, 2004, but he considered that it would be appropriate that he stand down from this position and that the Committee have the opportunity to chose it's own independent Vice-Chairman and make a recommendation accordingly to Council.

Resolved to recommend to Council

That Mr. L. Bates be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2004/2005.

123/04 **Change of membership**

There following change in membership for this meeting was noted:-

Delete:	Councillor Underhill
Substitute:	Councillor Roberston

124/04 **Apologies**

An apology for non-attendance was submitted on behalf of Councillor Bentley, Mr. M. Hodgson and Miss K. McLeod.

125/04 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 April, 2004, a copy having been circulated previously to each Member of the Committee, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to it being noted that the meeting commenced at 5.00 p.m. and not 6.00 p.m. as stated.

126/04 **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest

127/04 **Appointment of three independent members to Standards Committee**

The report of the Assistant Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the Committee note the decision of Council from its adjourned meeting on 30 June, 2004 and that the following persons were appointed as independent members on this Committee:

	Period of office
Mr. M. Hodgson	One year (until the end of municipal year 2004/2005)
Mrs. S.F. Parsons	Three years (until the end of municipal year 2006/2007)
Mr. R. Taylor	Three years (until the end of municipal year 2006/2007)

128/04 **Ethical governance audit report**

The report of the Assistant Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the findings of the ethical governance audit report be noted;
- (2) That the Monitoring Officer's intention to review the Constitution be noted;
- (3) That the Committee note the Monitoring Officer's intention to submit reports to both Cabinet and Council recommending changes to the Council's Constitution arising from the recommendations contained in the ethical governance audit report.
- (4) That the Monitoring Officer report back to the a future meeting on any significant progress made with regard to the implementation of the recommendations contained in the ethical governance audit report and the work undertaken on the Council's Constitution;
- (5) That the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, when attending the Annual Conference of Standards Committees in September 2004, be requested to discuss with other delegates the formation of a network of independent members from neighbouring authorities which could seek to promote good practice and influence national developments relating to the work of Standards Committees.

129/04 **Decision of the Adjudication Panel for England following a complaint of an alleged breach of the Code of Conduct by former Councillor Saleem**

The report of the Assistant Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the report and the decision of the Adjudication Panel for England regarding the disqualification of Mr. Saleem be noted;
- (2) That the Assistant Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer be requested to inform all members of the Council of the decision of the Adjudication Panel and the circumstances leading to Mr. Saleem's disqualification;

- (3) That the Committee note that in accordance with the recommendations of the Adjudication Panel, that consideration will be given to producing a procedure which will take into account community benefit to be derived from the sale of assets as opposed to monetary consideration and that a report on this matter be prepared for consideration by Cabinet/Council in due course.

130/04 Standards Board for England – Bulletins 18, 19 and 20

The report of the Assistant Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the Committee note the contents of the report and the guidance provided in Bulletins 18, 19 and 20;
- (2) That a copy of the report be provided to each member of the Council for their information and guidance;
- (3) That the Committee note that the Assistant Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer will be submitting a report to the next meeting on a case set out in Bulletin 18, when a member's improper behaviour led to a 4 year ban.

131/04 Training Session – 18 September 2004

The Committee was advised that the Assistant Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer, together with staff from Organisational Development and Constitutional Services would be providing a training session for elected and independent members on 18 August 2004 relating to the following:

- The Ethical Governance Framework.
- The role of the Monitoring Officer.
- The work of the Standards Committee and Standards Board for England.

132/04 Standards Committee – Timetable of meetings 2004/2005

The report of the Assistant Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the meetings dates of Standards Committee as approved by Council on 30 June 2004 be noted:-

3 November 2004

2 February 2005

20 April 2005

- (2) That in addition to the above approved dates, if it is necessary to agree special meetings/training events, this will be discussed with the Chairman of the Committee and the agreed dates will be based on those which are convenient for a majority of elected/independent members.

Termination of meeting

The meeting terminated at 7.00 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: