

Standards Committee

Monday 17 October 2011 at 6.00 p.m.

at the Council House, Walsall

Present

Mr. R. Meller (Chairman)
Ms. K. McLeod (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor D. Shires
Councillor G. Wilkes

391/11 **Apologies**

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

392/11 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2011 copies having been sent to each member of the Committee, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

393/11 **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

394/11 **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)**

There were no items to be considered in private session.

395/11 **Local Government Ombudsman Annual Review 2010/11**

The report of the Head of Business Change was submitted:

(see annexed)

The Corporate Policy and Performance Officer (Mr. J. Pryce-Jones) presented the report to the Committee.

Mr. Pryce-Jones made the point that although the Ombudsman's report for 2010/11 had been presented in a different format to previous years, the information within it remained the same. He reported that complaints to the Ombudsman had increased overall which reflected the improvements made to be more customer focused making it easier for residents to complain. Overall the total number of complaints investigated by the Ombudsman, which mainly focused on children's/adult services and planning matters, were on a level similar to that encountered in previous years. When reporting on non-compliance timescales, Mr. Pryce-Jones added that this had been reported at 28.7 down from 30.1 the previous year. He further expected this to fall during the next twelve months.

Resolved

That the content of the report be noted.

396/11 Code of Conduct complaints 2010/11

The report of the Head of Legal and Constitutional Services and Monitoring Officer was submitted:

(see annexed)

The Head of Legal and Constitutional Services and Monitoring Officer (Mr. T. Cox) presented the report and answered questions raised by the Committee arising from the report.

Resolved

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

397/11 Case Law update

The report of the Head of Legal and Constitutional Services and Monitoring Officer was submitted:

(see annexed)

The Head of Legal and Constitutional Services and Monitoring Officer (Mr. T. Cox) presented the report and answered questions raised by the Committee arising from the report.

Resolved

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

The meeting terminated at 6.36 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: