

Standards Committee

Monday 18 October 2010 at 6.00 p.m.

at the Council House, Walsall

Present

Mr. R. Meller (Chairman)
Mr. L. Bates (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor A. Andrew
Mrs. H. Bashir
Councillor P. Hughes
Ms. K. McLeod
Councillor D. Pitt
Councillor G. Wilkes

Observer: Mr. M. Singh

358/10 Apology

An apology for non-attendance was submitted on behalf of Mr. A. Wood.

359/10 Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2010 copies having been sent to each member of the Committee, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

360/10 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

361/10 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)

There were no items to be considered in private session.

362/10 **Code of Conduct – Complaint received since 2005**

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

(see annexed)

The Constitutional Services Manager (Mr. Garner) presented the report and answered questions raised by the Committee arising from the report.

Resolved

That the content of the report be noted.

363/0 **Local Government Ombudsman annual review 2009/10**

The report of the Executive Director, Resources was submitted:

(see annexed)

The Corporate Policy and Performance Officer (Mr. Pryce-Jones) presented the report and answered questions raised by the Committee arising from the report.

Resolved

That the content of the report be noted.

364/10 **Freedom of Information Act 2000 – annual report 2009/10**

The report of the Executive Director, Resources was submitted:

(see annexed)

The Principal Performance Officer (Information and Records) Ms. N,. Ukaidi) presented the report and answered questions raised by the Committee arising from the report.

Ms. Ukaidi advised the Committee that during the last 12 months the authority had received 630 information requests with 22 having an extension applied. She confirmed that the same data was already publicly available, however, maximum use of officers time collating data was still a consideration. Members of the Committee thought it would be useful to receive benchmarking information of how we compare to other local authorities in the West Midlands. Ms. Ukaidi agreed and confirmed she would bring a report to Committee in 6 months.

Resolved

- (1) That the content of the report be noted.
- (2) That the Committee continue to receive annual reports on freedom of information matters on an ongoing basis.
- (3) That a benchmarking report be presented to Committee at its meeting on 11 April 2011.

365/10 Data Protection Act, 1998 – annual report 2009/10

The report of the Executive Director, Resources was submitted:

(see annexed)

The Principal Performance Officer, Information and Records (Ms. N. Ukaidi) 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 Committee continue to receive annual reports on data protection matters on an ongoing basis.

366/10 Case law update

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

(see annexed)

The Constitutional Services Manager (Mr. Garner) 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 copies of the report be circulated to all members of the Council.

367/10 **Standards for England – The Bulletin – August 2010**

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

(see annexed)

The Constitutional Services Manager (Mr. Garner) 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 Bulletin be circulated to all members and co-optees and placed in each of the political group rooms.

The meeting terminated at 6.45 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: