

## **Standards Committee**

**Thursday 4 January, 2007 at 6.00 p.m.**

**at the Council House, Walsall**

### **Present**

Mr. R. Meller (Chairman)  
Mr. L. Bates (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor A.G. Bentley  
Dr. K. Biscomb  
Ms. L. McLeod  
Councillor J.G. O'Hare  
Mrs. S.F. Parsons  
Mr. R. Taylor  
Councillor A. Underhill

206/07 **Minutes**

### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2006, a copy having been circulated previously to each member of the Committee, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

207/06 **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

208/07 **Local Government Ombudsman Annual Review 2005-2006**

A report was submitted:

(see annexed)

Mr. John Pryce-Jones, Corporate Performance Manager, (Consultation, Customer Feedback and Information) was in attendance for this item and outlined the report.

In answer to questions from members, Mr. Pryce-Jones indicated that to rectify slippage referred to in the Ombudsman's report, efforts were being made to ensure replies were sent to the Ombudsman by first class post and e-mail was being used where possible. Officers were looking to meet the 28 day target. Mr. Pryce-Jones also indicated that Walsall broadly compared with other West Midlands Districts and that the outcomes were broadly the same.

**Resolved**

That the report be noted.

209/07 **Case Law update**

A report was submitted:

(see annexed)

**Resolved**

The Constitutional Services Manager, Mr. John Garner advised members that the main reason for submitting this item to the Committee was to raise awareness of the Committee on these issues and to demonstrate a difference between a public figure acting in a personal or public capacity and the public perception of those actions.

**Resolved**

That the report be noted and circulated to all members of the Council for information.

210/07 **Standards Committee bulletin**

A copy of the January 2007 issue of the bulletin was submitted:

(see annexed)

**Resolved**

That the bulletin be received and noted.

**Termination of meeting**

The meeting terminated at 6.18 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: