

**Standards Committee – Meeting held on Monday, 16th June, 2008.**

**Present:-**

**Co-opted Independent Members:-**

Mr Fred Ashmore, Mr Mike Field, Dr Henna Khan and the Reverend Paul Lipscomb.

**Elected Members:-**

Councillors Derek Cryer, Latif Khan, Mewa Mann, Natasa Pantelic and James Walsh.

**Parish Councillor Representative:-**

Parish Councillor Dalip Rajput.

**Apologies for Absence:-** Councillor Brian Hewitt

**PART I**

**32. Declarations of Interest**

None.

**33. Election of Chair**

**Resolved -** That the Reverend Paul Lipscomb be appointed Chair of the Committee for the current municipal year.

(The Reverend Paul Lipscomb in the Chair)

**34. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 15th April, 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**35. Election of Vice-Chair**

**Resolved -** That Mr Mike Field be appointed Vice-Chair of the Committee for the current municipal year.

**36. Appointment of Standards (Local Determination) Sub-Committee**

**Resolved -**

That subject to the Council approving the constitutional arrangements referred to in minute 37 below, the following Members be appointed to form a pool

## **Standards Committee - 16.06.08**

from which Members will be drawn to serve on the Standards (Local Determination) Sub-Committee for the current municipal year:-

### Elected Members

Councillors Derek Cryer, Brian Hewitt, Latif Khan, Mewa Mann, Natasa Pantelic and James Walsh.

### Independent Co-opted Members

Messrs Fred Ashmore, Mike Field, Dr Henna Khan and the Reverend Paul Lipscomb.

## **37. Local Assessment and Local Investigations under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007**

The Director of Law and Corporate Governance presented a comprehensive report setting out the new statutory regime which transfers responsibility for the local assessment and review of complaints about alleged Member misconduct from the Standards Board of England to local Standards Committees.

It was noted that there were no additional financial resources being allocated by the Government to the Council to carry out the additional responsibilities and that this matter should be raised with the appropriate Government Minister.

The Director of Law and Corporate Governance advised the Committee of the need to constitute additional Sub-Committees to handle the assessment of complaints and any review of any decision not to act upon an allegation. The Committee discussed the proposed constitutional arrangements as set out in Appendix C to the report and agreed some minor changes.

**Resolved** - (a) That the Director of Law and Corporate Governance be authorised to write to the appropriate Government Minister complaining about the lack of additional resources for local authorities to assess and review complaints about alleged member misconduct.

### **Recommended –**

- (b) That the constitutional arrangements set out in Appendix C to the report as amended by the Committee and attached to these minutes be approved by the Council.

## **38. Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure**

The Director of Law and Corporate Governance submitted the final Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure which had been approved by the Council in May 2008 for information.

## **Standards Committee - 16.06.08**

### **39. Registration of Gifts and Hospitality by Members**

The Member Services Manager submitted an information report detailing the gifts/hospitality registered by Members for the municipal year 2007/08.

The details contained in the report were noted but Members of the Committee expressed the view that there may be some under-reporting and asked the Director of Law and Corporate Governance to remind all Members of the Council of their obligations under the Local Code of Conduct for Members and supporting guidance.

**Resolved** – That the Director of Law and Corporate Governance write to all Members of the Council reminding them of their obligations under the Local Code of Conduct for Members and supporting guidance.

### **40. Work programme 2008/2009**

The Members Services Manager submitted the revised Work Programme for 2008/09 and it was noted that two matters had been deferred from the 16<sup>th</sup> June meeting namely:-

- (a) Revised draft Officer Code of Conduct.
- (b) A review of the revised format for the Standards Committee's Annual Review adopted for last year. This would be considered in conjunction with the Annual Review for 2007/2008.

**Resolved** – That the Work Programme as submitted be noted and approved.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.15 p.m. and closed at 7.15 p.m.)