



STANDARDS COMMITTEE

10am – 10.25am

17 June 2011

Present: Mr P Franzen (chair), Councillors Gihawi and Grenville

Apologies: Councillors Lay and Lubbock

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2010.

Implementation executive

In response to a question from the chair, the head of law and governance advised that the remit of the standards committee did not allow for the investigation of expenses paid to members of the implementation executive.

RESOLVED to note the position.

2. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The chair referred to the government's intention to abolish Standards for England and said that the implications for the future of the standards regime within the city council would be considered later in the meeting. He added that, whichever decision was taken on future standards procedures, the 10 principles of public life which had been circulated with the agenda, would continue to apply.

3. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED to recommend the council to receive the annual report of the chair of the standards committee for 2010-11.

4. THE LOCALISM BILL AND THE FUTURE OF THE STANDARDS FRAMEWORK

The head of law and governance presented the report and referred to the ongoing work to replace the standards framework at a regional level which was likely to result in the introduction of a voluntary code for adoption by local authorities. Interested parties were waiting to establish what was included within the statute and any

subsequent guidance from central government before deciding on the implementation of local standards framework. In response to a question, he said that should any standards issues arise before December 2011; these would need to be dealt with within the existing framework.

During discussion, the chair referred to the need for newly elected councillors to be informed about standards issues and suggested that a summary of the report and copy of the 10 principles of public life be sent to new members as part of their training programme. The head of law and governance commented that new members were required to confirm that they agreed to adhere to the statutory code of conduct, which included the 10 principles of public life, when making their declarations of office.

The head of law and governance said that when more information was available, a meeting of the committee would be convened to make recommendations to the cabinet on the new local standards framework and a subsequent training programme for members and officers.

RESOLVED to note the current position concerning the preparations for the formation of a local code of conduct and standards framework for the council.

CHAIR