



STANDARDS COMMITTEE

4.30pm-6.40pm

21 July 2008

Present: Mr P Franzen (Chair), Mr C Thrower (Vice-Chair), Councillors Bearman, Blakeway, Driver, Holmes and Lubbock

Apologies: Councillor Gihawi

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 7 February, 2008.

2. MONITORING OFFICERS ANNUAL REPORT 2008

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services presented his report.

In reply to a question, he said that since the appointment of the new Head of Contracts and Procurement great emphasis had been placed on the contracts process and procedures for monitoring were in place. If there was evidence that contractors were not abiding by the appropriate procedures there was mechanisms in place to deal with this.

RESOLVED to note the Annual Report of the Monitoring Officer, 2008.

3. PROCEDURE FOR LOCAL ASSESSMENT OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST COUNCILLORS

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Democratic Services Manager presented the annexed report and answered a number of members questions.

RESOLVED to approve the procedures for local assessment of complaints that a member of the Council may have breached the code of conduct subject to -

- (1) paragraph 2 being amended to specify that an independent member will Chair the Assessment Sub-Committee and the other independent member will Chair the Review Sub-Committee, if one is required;

- (2) paragraph 40 being amended to make it clear that, following an investigation, the Monitoring Officers report will be presented to either the hearing Sub-Committee or the Adjudication Panel for England.

4. TRAINING SESSION

RESOLVED to note that at the end of the meeting there would be a training session to help members of the Standards Committee develop their ability to assess new complaints, the exercise consisting of considering a range of real complaints that the Standards Board has dealt with.

CHAIR