



STANDARDS COMMITTEE

BOARDROOM, PHOENIX HOUSE, NOTTINGHAM ROAD, MELTON MOWBRAY

17 JUNE 2010

PRESENT:-

Independent Members	Mr M J Mayes (Chairman) Mr A Hand Ms P Pritchard
Councillors	P Chandler C O Chapman S Dungworth E Holmes
Parish Councillor Members	Hon Alderman A Dames Mr P Holbrook Mr J Machin
Corporate Director (CAM) (Monitoring Officer) Democracy Officer (Minutes)	

S.1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Hockey and Mr R Putnam.

S.2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 March 2010 were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the Chairman.

S.3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Minute S.35 – General Update – Appendix A

Councillor E Holmes declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item.

The Chairman welcomed the new Members of the Committee and introduced them to the Independent Members.

S.4. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report (copies of which had previously

been distributed to Members) which provided Members with an Annual Report on the activities of the Standards Committee in 2009/10.

Members raised concern with regard to future training prior to 2011 following the Governments proposals to abolish the Standards Board regime.

A Member enquired if Members of the Committee would receive a copy of the revised Constitution. The Monitoring Officer confirmed that a copy of the tracked change version would be made available to Members upon request.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the Monitoring Officer be delegated authority in consultation with the Chairman to amend the report in line with Members comments for onward reporting to Full Council.

S.5. GENERAL UPDATE

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report (copies of which had previously been distributed to Members) which updated Members on the matters raised at the last meeting of the Committee and progress with complaint handling and the advice currently being provided by the Monitoring Officer.

RESOLVED that

- (1) that Members noted the detail of the report;
- (2) Members noted the detail of Appendix A which outlined the progress with outstanding complaints.

S.6. PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITY AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The Monitoring Officer submitted an updated programme of activity (copies of which had previously been distributed to Members) for the Committees consideration.

A Member enquired if it was a statutory requirement for Members' Interests to be made available on the authority's website. The Monitoring Officer confirmed that this was not a requirement however many other authorities had this facility. Members considered that it was an invasion of privacy for their personal information to be so widely available.

The Monitoring Officer stated that the outcome of the complaints considered by the Standards Assessment Sub-Committee were not publicised and confirmed that a press notice would only be issued following an investigation where the outcome was a breach except in no breach cases the Member could decide whether or not a notice should be publicised. The Chairman pointed out that at the previous meeting Members had suggested the outcome of 'other action' should be publicised.

Members discussed the Government announcement in the Queen's speech that the proposed Decentralisation and Localism bill would include proposals

to abolish the Standards Board regime. The Monitoring Officer informed Members that the Standards for England Annual Assembly had been cancelled and publication of the draft bill was not expected until the Autumn and therefore in the meantime current legislation would remain in place.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

S.7. **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business.

The meeting which commenced at 6.30 p.m., closed at 7 p.m.

Chairman