

Minutes

Standards Committee
Tuesday, 30 November 2010
Meeting held at Committee Room 5 - Civic Centre,
High Street, Uxbridge UB8 1UW



Published on: 1 December 2010
Come into effect on: Immediately (or call-in date)

Present: Allan Edwards (Chairman), Malcolm Ellis (Vice-Chairman), James Keys (Independent Member)

Councillors Barrett, Harmsworth, Hensley, Khursheed, Lewis, Markham and Riley

Officers Present: Lloyd White

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Corthorne

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6 September 2010 were approved as a correct record.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. CONFIRMATION THAT ALL ITEMS MARKED PART I WILL BE CONSIDERED IN PUBLIC AND THOSE MARKED PART II, IN PRIVATE

5. REVIEW OF WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee's Work Programme for the remainder of 2010/11 was noted.

6. ASSESSMENT SUB-COMMITTEE PROCEDURE RULES

It was noted that at the last Council meeting a number of small changes to the Constitution had been approved including an amendment to the procedures to be undertaken when a complaint about an alleged breach of the Code of Conduct was received to the effect that, upon receipt of a written complaint, the Monitoring Officer would now additionally write to the Subject Member to request any additional information that may be required to assist with the assessment of the complaint. For clarification it was noted that the amendment did not allow for either the complainant or the Subject Member to attend the meeting of the Assessment Sub Committee.

7. STANDARDS COMMITTEE REGIME

Members were reminded that the Government was currently drawing up proposals for the future of the Standards regime including the closure of Standards For England, and alternatives to the current complaints mechanisms. The contents of a letter to the Secretary of State at the DCLG from the majority of the London-based independent Chairmen of Standards Committees was noted as was the reply received from the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State. The reply appeared to indicate that the Government proposals would support the establishment of local Codes of Conduct and the maintaining of local Standards Committees but without any powers of sanction.

Whilst Members expressed concern at these proposals it was felt best to wait until the official and detailed proposals were published by the Government before determining a further course of action.

8. COMPLAINTS MONITORING

This item was discussed in Part II without the press or public present as it contained confidential information as defined in the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985.

The Committee noted details of all the complaints made against Members to date.