

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Wednesday 3 June 2009

Present:-

Professor B Kirby (Chair)
Councillors Mrs S R Brock, Mrs Danks, D J Morrish, R Smith, Starling and Sterry

(Independent Members)
A Mimmack and L Smith

Also Present

Assistant Chief Executive/Deputy Monitoring Officer, Member Services Manager, and
Member Services Officer (SLS)

7 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 25 February 2009 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

8 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

9 **REVIEW AND FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

The report of the Chair of the Standards Committee was submitted, which reviewed the recent work undertaken by the Standards Committee and considered the future work programme.

A Member enquired whether a Councillor Development 'Champion', proposed alongside the Learning and Development Strategy, had been identified yet. The Assistant Chief Executive/Deputy Monitoring Officer referred to the debate on this at Council, and indicated that it was the intention to engage Group Leaders, in an effort to identify a suitable Member, who might be able to take on this informal role. A Member also suggested that a clearer distinction be made between conduct and general personal development. The Chair advised that he would work with officers to report back to the next Standards Committee meeting in September.

The Assistant Chief Executive/Deputy Monitoring Officer responded to a comment relating to Members' Interests and confirmed that as part of the induction programme offered to all new Members, they were expected to meet the Head of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer to discuss the Registration of Interests process. A Member suggested it might be appropriate to have a Member Briefing session, perhaps on an annual basis, on this topic.

RESOLVED that:-

- (1) the work undertaken by the Standards Committee since the last review be noted;
- (2) the proposed future work programme set out in paragraph 4.21 of the report be agreed; and

- (3) a Member briefing session, for all Councillors, will be arranged to specifically highlight their responsibilities in relation to their Registration and Declaration of Interests.

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ANNUAL RETURN TO THE STANDARDS BOARD

The Assistant Chief Executive confirmed that the Head of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer had submitted the Annual Return for the City Council by the required 15 May deadline. The Assistant Chief Executive/Deputy Monitoring Officer responded to a comment about officers having to declare financial interests by indicating that the Council's Strategic Management Team had to meet the requirements set down by the Section 151 Finance Officer. The information was not publicly available.

It was agreed that an amended version of the Annual Return would be made to the Standards Board as agreed by Committee.

(The meeting commenced at 4.30 pm and closed at 5.25 pm)

Chair