

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Standards Committee held on Wednesday 26 May 2010 at County Hall, Lewes.

PRESENT - Mrs C Swan (Independent Chairman),
Mr T Elliott (Independent member)
Mrs A Holden (Independent member)
Councillors Daniel, Healy and Stogdon

1. MINUTES

1.1 RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 1 December 2008 as a correct record.

2. REPORTS

2.1 Copies of the reports referred to below are contained in the minute book.

3. ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE MONITORING OFFICER

3.1 The Committee considered a report by the Assistant Director Legal and Democratic Services that provided an update on Member Conduct issues, the work of the Standards Committee and the Monitoring Officer.

3.2 Members agreed a number of changes that should be made to the report before it was presented to Council County, including:

- To add comparator authority information, highlighting the number of complaints received against Members
- Change the 'review outcome' column of appendix 1 SC.001.10 to not applicable rather than not requested.
- Add a 'Resolved' column to appendix 1

3.3 Members acknowledged the need for further Code of Code training for Members, particularly as there had been low take up in the past. However they recognised that due to the coalition Government Policy programme, which includes the measure that the Standards Board regime is to be abolished, it would be best to wait to see what is actually proposed before further training was offered.

3.4 RESOLVED to (1) note the report; and

(2) recommend to County Council the Annual Report of the Standards Committee for consideration.

4. USE OF RESOURCES

4.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Governance and Community Services that detailed resources available to Members and detailed a protocol on the use of resources by members.

4.2 Members made a number of amendments, and comments, in respect of the proposed resources Protocol to be put to the Governance Committee, including

- the inclusion of 'other necessary stationery' in the office stationery section
- the section relating to the personal documents and data not being stored on County Council ICT equipment, or networks to be reviewed.
- to review the Council email address section
- the deletion of the permission to use a photocopier for small amounts of personal photocopying.

4.3 RESOLVED to recommend to the Governance Committee the approval of the protocol on the use of resources by members, subject to the amendments and comments above.

Reason for decision

4.4 The approval of a protocol on the use of resources by members would enable members and officers to be clear as to the County Councils requirements in terms of use of Council resources.

5. REVIEW OF THE LOCAL STANDARDS FRAMEWORK

5.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Governance and Community Services that detailed the recommendations by Standards for England in the review 'Local Standards 2.0 – the Proportionality Upgrade?

5.2 RESOLVED to note the report.