



Legal and Democratic Services

Monday 28 March 2011

Town Hall
Chapel Road
Worthing
BN11 1HA

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Dear Sir / Madam

Standards Committee

A meeting of the Standards Committee will be held on **Wednesday 6 April at 6.00pm** in the **Gordon Room** (accessed via Stoke Abbott Road) to consider the business set out in the following Agenda.

Yours sincerely

Executive Head of Legal and Democratic Services

MEMBERS OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Independent Members – Have Full Voting Rights

David Watson (Chairman), Alex Chester, Jane Stirzaker- Evans and One Vacancy

Councillors

Noel Atkins, Joan Bradley, David Chapman, Paul High, Carol Molineaux, James Doyle

Substitute Members

Councillors Christine Brown, Graham Fabes, Norah Fisher and Elizabeth Sparkes

AGENDA

1. **Minutes**

To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 4 October 2010.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Members and Officers are invited to make any declarations of personal and/or prejudicial interest they may have in relation to items on this agenda. The declaration should refer both to the nature of the interest as well as its existence.

Members and officers may seek advice upon any relevant interest from a legal officer prior to the meeting.

3. **Public Question Time**

To receive any questions from members of the public.

(Note: Public Question Time will last for a maximum of 15 minutes.)

4. **Applications for Dispensations**

5. **Future of Standards - Localism Bill**

To consider a report by the Executive Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer, copy attached as item 5

6. **Draft Annual Report 2010/11**

To consider a report by the Executive Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer, copy attached as item 6

7. **Standards Committee – Draft Action Plan 2011/12**

To consider a report by the Executive Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer, copy attached as item 7

Ward
N/A

N/A

N/A

Standards Committee of Worthing Borough Council

06 April 2011
at 6.00 p.m.

Present: David Watson (Chairman), Alex Chester (Vice Chairman), Jane Stirzaker-Evans

Councillors: Noel Atkins, Joan Bradley, David Chapman, James Doyle, Paul High, Carol Molineaux,

Also present: Legal Services Manager, Democratic Services Officer (CCD)

S/29/10-11 Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the 4 October 2010 be confirmed as the correct record and signed by the Chairman.

S/30/10-11 Public Question Time

There were no members of the public present.

S/31/10-11 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

S/32/10-11 Applications for Dispensations

There were no applications for dispensations

S/33/10-11 Future of Standards – Localism Bill

The Committee had before it a report by the Executive Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as item 5. The report asked the Committee to consider the future of standards within Local Government if the Localism Bill is enacted in its current state.

The Committee discussed the report and it was agreed that the current code was familiar to Members and was suitable to uphold standards at Worthing Borough Council. It was recognised that some amendments would need to be made if the current code were to be maintained following assent of the Localism Bill.

The Legal Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer informed Members that details regarding the future operation of the Code of Conduct would become clearer at a time closer to the enactment of the Localism bill.

Resolved:

1. That the Committee recommend to Full Council adoption of a Local Code of Conduct, should the Localism Bill be enacted;
2. That the Committee recommend to Full Council that if it is to adopt a Local Code of Conduct, the current Code of Conduct and associated protocols be adopted subject to necessary amendments arising from the Localism Bill.

S/34/10-11 Draft Annual Report 2010/11

The Committee had before it a report by the Executive Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as item 6. The Committee were presented with a draft Annual Report to comment upon, approve and recommend to Full Council.

Members received the report and altered a minor typographical error within.

Resolved: That the Committee recommend the Annual Report, as amended, to Full Council for adoption.

S/35/10-11 Standards Committee – Draft Action Plan 2011/12

The Committee had before it a report by the Executive Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as item 7. The report set out a draft programme for the Standards Committee for the period 2011/12 for inclusion with the Committee's Annual Report to Council.

The Democratic Services Officer answered questions relating to the training planned for new Members following the May elections.

Members discussed the Action Plan and added some timescales to actions contained within the report:

- Item 3 (to consider the training needs of newly appointed independent Members) – *as and when necessary*
- General Areas – yearly questionnaire – *December 2011 – questionnaire to be re-written in light of changes brought about by the Localism Bill.*

Resolved: That the Draft Action Plan, as amended, be included with the Annual Report and be submitted to Full Council for approval.

The meeting ended at 6.26pm