

Minutes of: **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting: 28 May 2009

Present: Councillors K S Briggs, R C A Brown, S Costello, Y Creswell, V D'Albert, D M Higgin and B Theckston

Independent Members: A Brown, D Grenson, K Wainwright and A Withington (in the Chair)

Public Attendance: There were no members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

S.39 INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

The Chair welcomed Mr Grenson and Councillors, Costello and Theckston to their first meeting of the Committee.

S.40 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

S.41 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present to ask questions under this item.

S.42 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Delegated decision:

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 9 May 2009 be approved and signed a correct record.

S.43 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

A report of the monitoring Officer was submitted which had made recommendations regarding the appointment of Independent Members, and which had been approved by Annual Council on 13 May 2009. As a result, the Independent Members of the Standards Committee were appointed as follows:-

Anne Brown	-	Appointed until May 2012
Arthur Withington	-	Appointed until May 2013
David Grenson	-	Appointed until May 2014
Kenneth Wainwright	-	Appointed until May 2015

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The appointments had been made in order to retain experienced Independent Members following the onset of local filtering. With effect from May 2012, advertisements seeking applications from persons wishing to become an Independent Member of the Standards Committee would be resumed.

Councillor Brown indicated that he had not been present at Annual Council but did not support the decision, particularly as it was contrary to Standards Board guidance. Mrs Anne Brown expressed disappointment at his remarks given that the matter had already been considered and determined by full Council.

Delegated decision:

That the report be noted.

S.44 APPOINTMENT OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

It was reported that Mr K Wainwright would serve on the Audit Committee and Mrs A Brown would serve on the Resource and Performance Scrutiny Commission for the 2009/2010 Municipal Year.

Delegated decision:

That the report be noted

S.45 STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2008/2009

The Annual Report presented to the Annual Meeting of Council for the Municipal Year 2008/2009 was submitted.

The Monitoring Officer outlined the steps that would be taken with regard to Standards training for Elected and Independent Members.

Delegated decision:

That the report be noted.

S.46 OMBUDSMAN COMPLAINT STATISTICS

Statistics relating to Ombudsman complaints received in respect of Bury MBC were submitted.

It was reported that the statistics formed part of the Ombudsman's Annual Review which would be forwarded in June 2009.

Delegated decision:

That a further report be submitted once the Ombudsman's Annual Review has been received, and comparative information from last year's report be provided.

S.47 ITEMS RAISED BY THE CHAIR

Discussion took place around the wording on agenda letters relating to briefing facilities; the position relating to abstentions and the membership of Consideration Sub-Committees.

A WITHINGTON
Chair

(Note: The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 7.50 pm)

