

Minutes of: **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting: 27 May 2010

Present: Councillors R C A Brown, Y Creswell, A S Garner and J F Walton

Independent Members: A Brown (in the Chair), D Gremson and A Withington

Apologies: Councillors K Audin and S Costello (CI) and Mr K Wainwright

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

S.23 INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Mrs Anne Brown welcomed Members to the first meeting of the Committee for the 2010/2011 Municipal Year. She explained that Mr K Wainwright had been appointed as Chair for the year but she was chairing this meeting in his absence.

S.24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

S.25 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

S.26 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Delegated decision:

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 16 November 2009 be approved and signed a correct record.

S.27 STANDARDS HEARING PANEL

Delegated decision:-

That the Minutes of the Standards Hearing Panel held on 17 February 2010, be noted.

S.28 APPOINTMENT OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEMBER TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

It was reported that Mr D Gremson would serve on the Audit Committee for the 2010/2011 Municipal Year.

Delegated decision:

That the report be noted

S.29 COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS 2009/2010 AND OMBUDSMAN COMPLAINT STATISTICS

The Annual Report on Complaints and Compliments for 2009/2010 was submitted for information.

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

It was reported that the statistics formed part of the Ombudsman's Annual Review which would be forwarded in June 2010.

Delegated decision:

That the report be noted.

S.30 STANDARDS ISSUES

Members were asked to consider issues they would like to consider at a future meeting of the Committee.

The following comments and suggestions were made:-

- New Members should have an opportunity to view the Standards for England DVD, "Assessment Made Clear".
- Guidance Notes on the Standards complaints process for new Members of the Committee.
- The Monitoring Officer would consider any requests for training.
- A user-friendly version of the Code of Conduct should be developed.
- Information on Councillor's liability when representing the Council on charitable organisations and outside bodies.

Delegated decision:

1. That the comments of Members be noted.
2. That a paper on Member Liability be presented to a future meeting of the Committee.
3. That the DVD entitled "Assessment Made Clear" be shown at 6.15 pm prior to the next meeting on 15 July 2010.

A BROWN
Chair

(Note: The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 7.45 pm)