

**MINUTES** of the meeting of the **STANDARDS COMMITTEE** held at 10am on Monday 13 December 2010 at County Hall, Kingston upon Thames.

These minutes will be confirmed by the Standards Committee at its next meeting on 18 February 2011.

**Members:**

- +\* Mr Simon Edge (Chairman)
- + \* Ms Karen Heenan (Vice-Chairman)
- \* Eber Kington
- + Mrs Sally De la Bedoyere
- \* Mr Geoff Marlow
- \* Mr David Munro
- +\* Mrs Marion Roberts
- \* Mrs Dorothy Ross-Tomlin
- \* Mrs Lavinia Sealy
- \* Mr Colin Taylor

- + = Independent Representatives
- \* = Present
- x = Present for part of the meeting

**PART 1**  
**IN PUBLIC**

**59/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS [Item 1]**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Sally De la Bedoyere.

**60/10 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: 29 OCTOBER 2010 [Item 2]**

The minutes were agreed as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

**61/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]**

There were no declarations of interest.

**62/10 QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS [Item 4]**

There were no questions or petitions.

## **63/10 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT [Item 5]**

Copies of a letter received from the Standards Board for England together with an information bulletin issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government were tabled at the meeting and are attached to these minutes.

The Chairman reported that the communications confirmed, as expected, the end of the Standards regime.

It was noted that the Localism Bill was to be published this day.

It was agreed that the Committee should consider a report at their next meeting on the implications of the Bill. In the meantime, it was suggested that the papers, as tabled, should be forwarded to Group Leaders with the suggestion that discussions are started within their respective groups on what might replace current practice.

## **64/10 WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKER [Item 6]**

### **Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **Officers present:**

Allan Wells (Corporate Group Manager Legal Services)  
Elaine Bayfield (Democratic Services Officer)

### **Key Points Raised During the Discussion:**

In the light of the publication of the Localism Bill, the outstanding action on the tracker and work programme was reviewed and it was agreed to take no further action on the recommendation to Council regarding the proposed change to the Constitution.

The Committee requested that the report planned on the Guide to the Investigation Process should reflect on the lessons learned from the handling of the most recent complaints.

### **Actions/Further Information to be Provided:**

None.

### **Resolved:**

The Actions Tracker, as amended, and Work Programme be noted.

## **65/10 COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE IMPROVEMENT PLAN [Item 7]**

### **Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **Officer present:**

Nigel Bartlett-Twivey (Customer Services Improvement Manager)

### **Key Points Raised During the Discussion:**

The Committee noted that the Corporate Leadership Team had already agreed to the removal of Stage 3 of the Corporate Complaints procedures. Stage 2 investigations were now much improved and as experience had shown that that Stage 3 rarely added any value to the process. The use of 'mediation' had also increased.

### **Actions/Further Information to be Provided:**

None.

### **Resolved:**

The report be received and endorsed.

### **Next Steps:**

A progress report on the new arrangements be submitted to the Committee in six months (June 2011).

## **66/10 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS [Item 8]**

The next meeting of the Committee will be on 18 February 2011 at 10am (apologies were submitted from Karen Heenan and Lavinia Sealy).

Future meetings will be on: Monday, 28 March and Monday 9 May 2011.

[Meeting ended: 10.35am]

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**Chairman**