

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2010**

**PRESENT** – *Councillors K Foster, J Hirst and T Humphrys*

**PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS** – *Councillor Malowana-Murphy*

**INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE** – *Mr L Loft (Chair), Mr Zahid Aziz, Mr B Kiernan, Ms Harpreet Kaur-Kalkat, Mrs V Miles and Mrs V Webb*

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE-** *Denise Park (Strategic Director of Resources) Janie Berry (Legal Services), Phil Llewellyn (Democratic Services) and Christine Wood, (Democratic Services).*

**RESOLUTIONS**

**1 Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular Denise Park who was attending a meeting of the Standards Committee for the first time. Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Zamir Khan, and Tony Melia, Parish Councillor Stephen Simpson and independent member, Mrs Sue Entwistle.

**2 Minutes of the Meeting of this Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**3 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4 Matters arising**

**Recruitment for new Members (Minute 28)**

Members would be updated at item 8.

**Advice relating to the Guidance from the Standards for England on Gifts and Hospitality (Minute 31)**

Members would be updated at item 7.

## **5 Membership of Committee 2010/2011**

A report was submitted advising of changes to the Membership of the Committee 2010/2011. Members were informed that Councillor Tony Melia would replace Councillor Andrew Graham and Councillor Jim Hirst would replace former Councillor John Williams.

The Chair extended a warm welcome to the new Members, and in particular, the Committee welcomed Councillor Jim Hirst, who would bring invaluable experience as a former Vice Chair on the Standards Committee.

## **6 Verbal Update on Work Programme – Ethical Governance Website**

Janie Berry (Legal) provided an update on the draft Ethical Governance Website, and advised that there would be an introductory paragraph from the Chair of the Committee on the page, and a welcome paragraph to the website, by the Head of Legal Services.

Work was still taking place on the website, with amendments being made to the page by the Communications team. When the major work had been completed, it was anticipated that the page would be launched on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010. The Committee was informed of a number of publications in which the web page, and the work of the Standards Committee could be highlighted, such as Team Talk, The Shuttle etc.

A discussion took place around the issue, in which further suggestions for items to be included on the web page were made. It was also suggested that approval of the final draft page be delegated to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee, prior to the anticipated launch in September 2010.

**RESOLVED** - That approval of the final draft Ethical Governance Website page be delegated to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee.

## **7 Guidance from the Standards for England on Gifts and Hospitality**

Janie Berry updated the Committee advising that following recent Government announcements about the future of Standards for England, the Standards for England were anticipating further guidance from the new Government in relation to the various Standard functions. No further guidance or updates had appeared on the Standards for England website. Any further updates would be submitted to future meetings of the Committee.

Members were also informed that the Annual Assembly of Standards Committees, to have taken place on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> October 2009, at the International Convention Centre, Birmingham, had been cancelled.

A copy of the current Guidance from the Standards for England (published 15 October 2009) in relation to Gifts and Hospitality was submitted to the Committee.

It was suggested and agreed that the Guidance be circulated to all Members of Blackburn with Darwen Borough Councillors, Darwen Town Council and Parish Councils.

**RESOLVED** - That the Guidance from the Standards for England on Gifts and Hospitality be circulated to all Members of Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, Darwen Town Council and Parish Councils.

## **8 Verbal Update on Recruitment**

Members were informed that there were still two vacancies for Membership of the Committee, one independent and one parish member.

A discussion took place in which it was decided to postpone recruitment to the two posts, until further clarification had been received about the future of Standards for England.

**RESOLVED** – That recruitment to the two vacant posts be postponed until further clarification is received from the Standards for England.

## **9 Standards Committee Annual Report**

The Standards Committee Annual Report 2009/10 was submitted to the Committee.

**RESOLVED –**

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the report be forwarded to all Members at Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, Darwen Town Council and all Parish Councils.

## **10 Training Update**

A report was submitted to the Committee which advised of recent training that had been provided to Members of the Council and also to the Standards Committee.

**RESOLVED** – That the update be noted.

**11 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting would be held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

Signed.....

Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were signed

Date.....