

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
5th December 2012

PRESENT – *Councillor John Slater (Vice-Chair) Councillors K Foster, F Oldfield, P Riley, S Hussain, B Taylor, D Walsh*

INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE – *Mr P Fletcher and Mr Tassadaq Hussain*

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE- *Asad Laher (Legal Services) Phil Llewellyn and Paul Conlon (Democratic Services)*

RESOLUTIONS

1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcom

2 Minutes of the Meeting of this Committee held on 2nd March 2011

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd March 2011 be approved and signed as a correct record subject to the correction of the date of the previous meeting being corrected to read October 2010.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 The Localism Act 2011 and the Standards Regime.

The Committee received presentation on the Localism Act 2011 and the Standards Regime. The Localism Bill had received Royal assent on 15th November 2011 and

RESOLVED –

1. That dispensation be granted for those Members of the Council listed at Appendix A under the Standards Committee (Further Provisions) (England) Regulations 2009;
2. That dispensation be granted for a period of one calendar month (2nd March 2011 - 2nd April 2011) to the six Members as detailed in the report at appendix A as follows:

Councillor Maureen Bateson
Councillor Derek Hardman
Councillor Dave Harling
Councillor Michael Lee
Councillor Pat McFall
Councillor Salim Mulla

24 Case Review

Members were advised of the Online Case Review Introduction that had been published on 21st December 2010 on the Standards for England website, and which covered cases up to the end of October 2010.

This was the third paragraph-by-paragraph analysis of the Code of Conduct and was intended primarily as a research tool for monitoring officers and Standards Committees. The review had been developed to assist in understanding how tribunals and higher courts had interpreted the Code of Conduct. It was envisaged as a complement to the guidance produced by Standards for England and it was intended to keep the Case Review under constant review to reflect changes.

Members were advised on how to use the Case Review and encouraged to do so. Link to Online Case Review as follows:

<http://www.standardsforengland.gov.uk/CaseinformationReporting/OnlineCaseReview2010/>

25 Localism Bill and Standards for England

Updated information that had been published by the Department for Communities and Local Government, in relation to the Abolition of the Standards Board regime, was submitted to the Committee.

Details relating to the current Standards Board regime, proposed transitional measures and the conduct regime in the post-Standards Board period were outlined in the information.

A discussion took place around the issue in which concerns were raised about the abolition of the Standards Committee at Blackburn with Darwen.

RESOLVED – That the Chair of the Standards Committee writes to the Chief Executive at Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, expressing the concerns of the Committee in relation to the abolition of Standards and requests information on the future options for Standards at Blackburn with Darwen.

26 Date of Next Meeting

That the meeting of the Committee scheduled for 22nd March 2011 be cancelled and that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 7th July 2011.

Signed.....

Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were signed

Date.....