

**UNRESTRICTED MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
MONDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2011**

In attendance \*

COUNCIL MEMBERS:	*Christophides, *Demirci, *Reece, *Stennett, *Watson, Williams and *Winskill
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INDEPENDENT MEMBERS:	Mr J. Darbyshire, Ms R. Hatch (Vice-Chair), *Ms A. Loyd (Chair), *Mr P. Skinner, Ms A Rabe & *Ms C. Sykes
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Apologies Mr J. Darbyshire, Ms R. Hatch & Ms A Rabe

<b>MINUTE NO.</b>	<b>SUBJECT/DECISION</b>
<b>STCO43.</b>	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Ms Hatch, Ms Rabe and Mr Darbyshire.</p> <p><b>NOTED</b></p>
<b>STCO44.</b>	<p><b>URGENT BUSINESS</b></p> <p>The Chair asked if there were any items of urgent business.</p> <p>The Clerk to the Committee – Mr Hart advised that there had been additional documents circulated to the Committee on 24 February 2011 in respect of exempt agenda item 6 which were required to be read with the agenda papers.</p> <p><b>NOTED</b></p>
<b>STCO45.</b>	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>Councillor Williams declared a prejudicial interest in exempt agenda item 6 and would leave the proceedings at the commencement of the item.</p> <p><b>NOTED</b></p>
<b>STCO46.</b>	<p><b>ORAL REPORT TO UPDATE THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE OF ETHICAL GOVERNANCE OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES</b></p> <p>The Chair asked for a brief oral update.</p> <p>The Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer advised the meeting that in respect of the current position as regards the Government's proposals for the future of ethical governance of Local Authorities, since the previous meeting there was little further to report other than there had been confirmation that the repealing of the Act would receive Royal Assent at the end of 2011 and that in effect would mean the abolition of the current regime of ethical governance. As</p>

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	<p>a result, there would be revisions to criminal law which would cover the declarations of personal and prejudicial interests. In terms of the future local arrangements, it would be for the Council to determine these and how such a mechanism would be conducted but Mr Suddaby emphasised that these arrangements would be limited in terms of the sanctions to be imposed on a Councillor for breaches in the Member code. It was also unclear as to whether there was likely to be some form of London wide body and how this would operate.</p> <p>Mr Suddaby further commented that as yet, there was nothing formal for the Council to consider but he felt it appropriate for the matter to remain on the agendas for this Committee as an update item.</p> <p>In response to points of clarification from Councillor Williams Mr Suddaby advised that the current constitution would require amendment to reflect the repelling of the current legislation but there may be the wish to consider the adopting of a new code of conduct and have a newly established Standards Committee with limited sanction abilities.</p> <p>There being no further points of clarification the Chair summarised and it was:</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p>That the verbal update of the Head of Legal Services be noted, and an item be placed on each future meetings of the Standards Committee in respect of the proposals for the future of ethical governance of Local Authorities.</p>
<p><b>STCO47.</b></p>	<p><b>EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p>That the press and public be excluded from the proceedings as Item 6 contains exempt information as defined in paras 1 &amp; 2 of Section 100a of the Local Government Act 1972; namely information relating to any individual, and information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual; and also in accordance with the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 (regulation 5), and Section 53 of the Local Government Act 2000.</p> <p>Councillor Williams, having declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 6, left the proceedings.</p> <p><b>NOTED</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SUMMARY OF EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL PROCEEDINGS</b></p>
<p><b>STCO48.</b></p>	<p><b>STANDARDS COMPLAINT SC002/0910 - FURTHER PRE-DETERMINATION HEARING MATTERS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AGREED RECOMMENDATION 2.1(i) AS DETAILED IN THE REPORT</b></p>

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The meeting ended at 19.30hrs

Annabel Loyd

Chair