

**UNRESTRICTED MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE
MONDAY, 28 MAY 2012**

MEMBERS:	Councillors *Egan, *Gibson, McNamara, *Reece, Stanton *Whyte and Winskill
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INDEPENDENT MEMBERS:	*Mr J Darbyshire, *Ms R. Hatch, *Ms A Loyd, *Mr P. Skinner, Ms A. Rabe, and Mr C. Watts.
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* Indicates Members attending

Apologies Ms A Rabe, Councillors McNamara, Stanton and Winskill

**MINUTE
NO.**

SUBJECT/DECISION

STCO58.	<p>ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR</p> <p>The Chair advised that it was necessary to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair for the ensuing Municipal Year 2012/13 until such time that the new arrangements for the ethical framework came into force later in the year.</p> <p>The Democratic Services Manager – Mr Hart sought nominations for the position of Chair.</p> <p>Ms Loyd, seconded by Mr Darbyshire nominated Ms Rachel Hatch as Chair of the Standards Committee for the Municipal Year 2012/13 until such time that the new arrangements for the ethical framework came into force.</p> <p>There being no other nominations it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That Ms Rachel Hatch be appointed Chair of the Standards Committee for the Municipal Year 2012/13 until such time that the new arrangements for the ethical framework came into force.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MS RACHEL HATCH IN THE CHAIR</p> <p>The Chair sought nominations for the position of Vice-Chair.</p> <p>Ms Loyd, seconded by Mr Darbyshire nominated Mr Phillip Skinner as Vice-Chair of the Standards Committee for the Municipal Year 2012/13 until such time that the new arrangements for the ethical framework came into force.</p> <p>There being no other nominations it was</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That Mr Phillip Skinner be appointed Vice-Chair of the Standards Committee for the Municipal Year 2012/13 until such time that the new arrangements for the ethical framework came into force.</p>
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STCO59. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	<p>Apologies for absence were received from Ms Rabe, Councillor McNamara, for whom Councillor Dogus was substituting, and from Councillors Stanton and Winskill.</p> <p>NOTED</p>
STCO60. URGENT BUSINESS	<p>The Clerk advised that there were no new items of urgent business, and that in respect of Agenda Item 8, which had been sent after the agenda publication, reasons for lateness would be stated at the commencement of the item by the Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer.</p> <p>NOTED</p>
STCO61. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	<p>There were no declarations of interests.</p> <p>NOTED</p>
STCO62. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the unrestricted minutes of the meetings of the Standards Committee held on 23 February, and 22 March(Special) 2012 be agreed and signed by the Chair as an accurate record of the proceedings</p>
STCO63. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	<p>The Chair advised the Committee that this meeting may be the last meeting of the Standards Committee in its current governance set up as the new ethical framework was due to come into enforce, subject to confirmation, on July 1st 2012. The Chair commented that should the new arrangements not come into force on 1 July then the Committee's current governance would continue.</p> <p>NOTED</p>
STCO64. UPDATE ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE	<p>The Chair advised the Committee that this meeting may be the last meeting of the Standards Committee in its current governance set up as the new ethical framework was due to come into enforce, subject to confirmation, on July 1st</p>

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	<p>2012. The Chair commented that should the new arrangements not come into force on 1 July then the Committee's current governance would continue.</p> <p>NOTED</p>
STCO65.	<p>THE ETHICAL FRAMEWORK</p> <p>The Chair advised that this item would be considered in conjunction with the next item on the agenda – Item 8 – The Ethical Framework.</p> <p>The Chair asked for an introduction of the report.</p> <p>The Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer – Mr Ryan, in conjunction with Mr White – Senior Lawyer - advised the Committee that the report had been marked to follow as the recommendations contained in the report were for adoption by Full Council and this had been on 21 May 2012 – the day after the agenda had been published – therefore the recommendations had been adopted at Full Council on 21 May 2012 and were therefore before the Committee for noting.</p> <p>In terms of the main essence of the changes which would affect the Committee when the new ethical framework came into force (confirmation was awaited though likely to be 1 July 2012) were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• that the Committee would become a politically proportional Committee• it would no longer have voting independent representatives, though provision had been made within the revised terms of reference to appoint up to 6 independent non voting co-optees• an Independent Person appointed to act in an official advisory capacity to the Chair and Committee. This person would not have a seat on the Committee or have a voting capacity.• There would be changes affecting how members were required were record declarations of interests;• There would be a new code of conduct in relation to Member standards of behaviour• There would be an assessment sub-Committee to consider whether there should/should not be an investigation in respect of a complaint received, and a hearing sub-committee - which would meet to consider a complaint that had been investigated, and the Standards Committee had determined that there had been a breach of the code against an elected member/co-optee• That the highest level of sanction that the new legislation permitted was one of censure <p>The Committee then briefly discussed the content of the report, the main points being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whether the newly constituted Standards Committee would be a stand alone body or become a Sub-Committee of an existing non Cabinet body• Issues in relation to the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Chair of

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	<p>the newly constituted Standards Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would the role of the Monitoring Officer be more augmented in terms of the assessment of complaints and if there would be a form of quarterly report being put to the new Cttee which detailed a summary of those complaints received and rejected • The need to ensure that the new Standards Committee would only meet if there was business to consider and that the scheduled meetings be cancelled if there was no business to discuss/report <p>In response to the points raised Mr Ryan, assisted by Mr White, advised the Committee that the newly established Committee had been established as a stand alone standing Committee, but that this could be subject to further consideration. The role of the Monitoring Officer would be similar to the current role and there would be scope to reject complaints much in the same way as currently. It was also intended to report to the Committee on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>Mr Ryan reiterated his eralier comment the the Indepenedent person would have a statutory role as adviser to the Chair and Monitoring Officer but not serve as a voting member or have a voice or seat on the Committee such. It was envisgaed that the Independent member would be invited to attend Committee meetings if they wished to, and also act in an advisory capacity at the hearing sub-committees. The newly appointed Committee would within its terms of reference have the power to appoint non-votoing co-opted members if it so wished.</p> <p>The Chair then summarised and it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the report be noted.</p>
<p>STCO66.</p>	<p>DETERMINATION HEARINGS</p> <p>Nil Items</p>
<p>STCO67.</p>	<p>NEW ITEMS OF UNRESTRICTED URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>Nil Items</p>
<p>STCO68.</p>	<p>EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the press and public be excluded from the proceedings as Item 9 contains exempt information as defined in paras 1 & 2 of Section 100a of the Local</p>

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	<p>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 style="text-align: center;">SUMMARY OF EXEMPT/RESTRICTED PROCEEDINGS</p>
STCO69.	<p>EXEMPT MINUTES</p> <p>Agreed the exempt minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee of on 20 December 2011.</p>
STCO70.	<p>NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>The Chair advised that there were no items of exempt urgent business.</p> <p>The Chair, in advising that this was likely to be the last meeting of the Standards Committee in its current form, and that as this would be the last meeting that Independent members would be able to attend, placed on record her and her fellow Independent Members thanks to officer of the Council in the support and efforts in the whole of the life of the Standards Committee, and the Chair also thanked Councillors and Independent Members for their efforts and support., and wished everyone present the best of luck in the future.</p> <p>NOTED</p>
STCO71.	<p>DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS</p> <p>The schedule of meetings for the remainder of the Municipal Year were noted as follows;</p> <p>18 October 2012 11 December 2012 30 April 2013</p>

Rachel Hatch

Independent Chair