

**MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE
MONDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2007**

MEMBERS PRESENT AT MEETING:	Councillors Dobbie, Khan, Lister, Mallett, Whyte, Williams, and Winskill
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INDEPENDENT MEMBERS PRESENT AT MEETING:	Ms I Francis (Chair), Mr R. Lovegrove, and Ms C. Sykes.
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APOLOGIES: Councillor Mughal

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION
STCO14.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mughal.
STCO15.	URGENT BUSINESS The Chair agreed to admit a new item of urgent business in respect of the appointment of new independent members of the Board. RESOLVED That a new item of urgent business be agreed to and considered at Item 10 of the agenda.
STCO16.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST The Chair highlighted to members the revised declaration statement that appeared on the agenda. There were no declarations of interested declared at this stage of the meeting.
STCO17.	MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING RESOLVED That the minutes of the previous meeting, 12 June 2007, were agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record subject to the following amendment: STCO02. - to include apologies from Carol Sykes.
STCO18.	CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS There were no announcements.
STCO19.	MONITORING OFFICER'S REPORT ON REFERRALS RECEIVED FROM THE STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND There were no referrals to report.

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STCO20.	DETERMINATION HEARINGS There were no hearings to report on.
STCO21.	TRAINING ON THE REVISED MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT The Committee was advised on the training given to Members and officers on the revised Member Code of Conduct and proposals for ongoing training in follow-up to that already received. In respect of future training, the Committee was further advised that when details of the new local filter complaints procedure come into affect on 1 April 2008, appropriate training will need to be implemented in order for members to effectively administer the new arrangements. The Committee discussed some of the logistics around impacts of the new filter for complaints and recognised that it could potentially amount to a significant change on dealing with complaints. The Committee was informed that the cooperation of Whips from both parties would be given in arranging future training sessions. RESOLVED (i) That the progress made so far in training on the new code be noted; (ii) That the proposals outlined in 7.2 of the Report be agreed; and (iii) That options for future training on the new filter arrangements from 1 April 2008 be noted subject to further government guidance.
STCO22.	DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE ADOPTION OF THE REVISED MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT The Committee was advised of developments since the adoption of the revised Members Code of Conduct at the AGM on 21 May 2007; namely the incorporation of the revised statement on declaring personal interests on all agendas; and the new arrangements for the registration of gifts and hospitality worth £25 or above. The Committee noted that any gifts or hospitality received more than 28 days before the adoption of the revised code would not need to be placed on the members' register of interests. It was agreed that the Monitoring Officer would write to all Members to clarify the new arrangements. In respect of Committee Members observing the proceedings of other council committees, the Committee was advised that this was not necessary. Instead, a forum for the committee chairs to feedback their views on their experiences under the revised Code so far was deemed more appropriate. However, the Committee felt that if individual Members wanted to "observe" council committees, they should arrange this with chairs and report back their findings formally to the Committee. The Committee noted that the Standard Board for England bulletin would be sent to members from now on, and to committee chairs. RESOLVED (i) That the proposals to amend the register of gifts and hospitalities in

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	<p>light of Standards Board advice be agreed and that the Monitoring Officer would advise all members of the Council accordingly.</p>
STCO23.	<p>NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>The Committee considered the selection process for independent members of the Standards Committee for May 2008 and was advised, by the Monitoring Officer, of the likely recruitment timetable for this process. The Committee noted its responsibility to establish a short-listing and interview panel consisting of two elected members and one independent member for the process of recruiting new independent members. The Committee was further advised over the need to agree how many independent members would be recruited in May 2008, and of the option to adopt a rolling system whereby one new member is appointed each year in the period leading up to the Council AGM. This would ensure a balance between the consistency of experienced independent members, and the need to recruit new independent members to prevent institutionalisation of the independent member function.</p> <p>The Committee also noted and agreed to the advert, draft job description, person specification, and application form for the use during the recruitment campaign.</p> <p>It was agreed to seek to widen the advertisement for the future recruitment round to attract a greater number of suitable candidates and it was suggested that the use of Area Assemblies should be considered.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) That the timetable as set out at paragraph 8 of the Report be agreed;(ii) That the job description, person specification, and application form as attached at Appendix One of the Report be agreed;(iii) That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to place the advert attached at Appendix Two;(iv) That the establishment of a short listing and interview panel to consider the selection of independent members be agreed;(v) That the appointment of one independent member in the first instance be agreed followed by further members in the New Year.(vi) That the Monitoring Officer write to the three Independent Members whose term of office ends next May 2008 to seek to confirm who among them would wish to have their term of office extended by a further year to May 2009.(vii) That the Monitoring Officer should consider how a rolling programme of recruitment of independent members could be organised.
STCO24.	<p>DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the next meeting of the Committee be 10 January 2008, at 7:30pm.</p>

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IRENE FRANCIS

Chair, Standards Committee 2007/8

Date: