



## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

MINUTES of a MEETING held at COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE on THURSDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2003.

**PRESENT:** Mr RL Tickell (Chairman), Mr PCB Coleman, Mr A Gooch, Mr P McGuigan, Mrs P Rugg and Mr GA Thompson.

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58. **Membership** The Director of Corporate Services reported the membership of the Committee.

59. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

*Resolved: To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2003.*

60. **Complaints Review Panels**

Members discussed the arrangements for complaints review panel hearings. It was decided that the best time for these to be held would be on the morning of Standards Committee meetings as most members would be available on these days. Officers agreed to timetable monthly review panel meetings which would be cancelled if they were not required.

61. **Chairman's Announcements**

(i) **Members' Allowances**

The Chairman announced that a new scheme of members' allowances had been approved by the County Council. An Allowance would now be payable to co-opted members on a monthly basis from 1 October 2003.

Members welcomed this decision but queried the method of calculation for co-opted members, as it appeared not to use the same principle as for elected members whereby 50% of the formula was allocated to reflect the voluntary nature of public service.

(ii) **Leader of the Council**

The Chairman informed members that, following Mr Chalke's resignation, Mrs Jane Scott had been appointed Leader of the Council.

(iii) **Press Release**

The Chairman read out a press release which would be sent out shortly regarding the inclusion of favourable comments in a paper produced by the ODPM summarising the work of the Standards Committee.

62. **Review of the Constitution**

The Monitoring Officer informed members of the County Council's decisions on the review of the Constitution and a copy of the motion agreed by the Council was circulated for information. Members noted that the Council had taken on board several of its suggestions and had thanked the Committee for its work on the review. The revised Constitution would be issued in September.

It was noted that the Leader had referred the issue of substitute members on committees to the Standards Committee and had asked for a report back to the November Council meeting. The Monitoring Officer would prepare a paper for the next meeting on this issue.

Members were keen to be informed of progress on the development of the Committee's suggestions, which were set out in paragraph 19 (b-f), (h), (i), (l) and (m) of its recommendations to Council.

*Resolved: To receive a report regarding the progress of the suggestions made by this Committee prior to the County Council meeting in November.*

63. **Local Determination of Misconduct Allegations**

The Monitoring Officer reported that the Standards Board's guidance on Standards Committee determinations had just been published. A joint training event would take place on 26 September but the time and venue had yet to be finalised.

It was felt that it would be a useful training exercise for members to attend some forthcoming hearings to observe how these were conducted.

A further report on the guidance and local determination hearings would be submitted to the next meeting.

*Resolved: To formally adopt the model procedures for the hearings as set out in the guidance.*

64. **Annual Report**

The Chairman reported that he hoped to publish an annual report on the work of the Committee in October. A draft format for the report was circulated to members. Members agreed on the allocation of the various topics which would be included in the report. They were asked to provide Nina Wilton with their submissions before the September meeting when this matter would be discussed further.

Members also discussed their future work programme and it was noted that a report on this matter would be submitted to the next meeting.

**65. Consultation Paper**

A copy of the Consultation Paper entitled “Providing Indemnities to Relevant Authority Officers and Members” was circulated to members for information. It was noted that a report on this matter would be submitted to the next meeting.

(Duration of meeting: 2.00pm – 3.20pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Marie Todd of Democratic and Members’ Services direct line (01225) 713011 or e-mail [marietodd@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:marietodd@wiltshire.gov.uk).  
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