



STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a MEETING held at COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE on THURSDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2003.

PRESENT: Mr RL Tickell (Chairman), Mr PCB Coleman, Mr A Gooch and Mr G Thompson

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

88. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr P McGuigan and Mrs P Rugg.

89. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Resolved: To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2003.

90. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

(a) **Letter to Mr IC West**

The Chairman reported that a letter had been prepared to send to Mr IC West in response to his public question at the last meeting. A copy of the letter would also be circulated to members of the Committee for information.

NB Mr G Thompson declared a personal interest in this item as Chairman of the Salisbury District Council Standards Committee, but remained in the meeting while the matter was discussed, given the general nature of the issues in question.

(b) **Annual Report**

The Committee noted that the Standards Committee Annual Report was currently being printed and would be circulated shortly. A copy would be placed on the Internet and a copy sent to the Standards Board and other interested parties.

91. **Chairman's Announcements**

Deputy Chief Executive

The Chairman announced that Janet Relfe had been appointed as Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate and Library Services.

92. **Review of Wiltshire County Council's Constitution - Progress**

The Committee considered a report which set out the actions taken so far in response to the Standard Committee's suggestions arising from its review of the Constitution. Members were pleased that the report to be considered by the County Council appeared to be largely supportive of the suggestions made.

Resolved: To note the current position and that the Council's decision on these matters will be reported to the next meeting.

93. **Appointment of Independent Members to the Standards Committee**

The Committee considered a report which set out a proposed procedure for the appointment of independent members to the Standards Committee for adoption by the Council. Members agreed that it would be useful for the Committee to agree on a job description and selection criteria for the appointment, and for the Monitoring Officer or his Deputy to be in attendance to advise the Selection Panel.

Resolved: To recommend the Council to adopt the procedure for appointing independent members of the Standards Committee as outlined in the report, subject to the term of office of independent members being increased to 4 years (to correspond with the number of independent members).

94. **Communication with Elected Members about Complaints Issues**

The Committee noted the current position with regard to notifying members about complaints issues in their particular areas. Members were informed of Stage 3 complaints and complaints to the local government ombudsman made by residents of their division. The relevant portfolio holder was also informed.

95. **Standards Board Bulletin No. 13**

The Committee noted the Standards Board Bulletin.

96. **Exclusion of the Public**

Resolved: To agree that in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting for the business specified in Minute Numbers 97 and 98 because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 6 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.

97. **Corporate Complaint**

The Committee received a report which set out the outcome of a recent corporate complaint regarding school transport costs.

98. **Corporate Complaint**

The Committee received a report which set out the outcome of a recent corporate complaint regarding a truancy patrol.

99. **Time of Next Meeting**

*Resolved: That the next meeting on 4th December 2003 commence at **2pm** instead of 3pm as scheduled.*

(Duration of meeting: 3.00pm – 4pm)

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.
Press enquiries to Communications, direct line (01225) 713114/713115.