

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a MEETING of the STANDARDS COMMITTEE held at COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE on THURSDAY 9 JUNE 2005.

PRESENT:

Mr G Gooch, Mr M Hewson, Mr P McGuigan, Ms C O'Sullivan and Mrs P Rugg.

Mr P Coleman and Mrs M White also attended the meeting.

23. **Appointment of Chairman**

Resolved: To appoint Mr P McGuigan as Chairman for the forthcoming year.

24. **Appointment of Vice-Chairman**

Resolved: To appoint Ms C O'Sullivan as Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year.

25. **Apologies** Apologies for absence were received from Mr P Lefever.

26. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Resolved: To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 14 April 2005.

27. **Chairman's Announcement** The Chairman welcomed Mr M Hewson as a new elected member on the Committee and also thanked Mr P Coleman, the previous elected member, for all his work on the Committee over the last few years.

28. **A Code for the Future – A Consultation Paper on the Review of the Code of Conduct for Members** The Committee received a report by the Monitoring Officer which asked members to consider a response to the Consultation Paper issued by the Standards Board for England in respect of the Code of Conduct for Members.

Resolved: To authorise the Monitoring Officer to respond to the Standards Board Consultation Paper taking into account the comments made by members at the meeting (a copy of the response is attached as an Appendix to these minutes.)

29. **Internal Audit Plan 2005/06** The Committee received a copy of the Internal Audit Plan for 2005/06. It was noted that the audit team now worked to a risk-

based audit plan linked to the County Council's risk management process. The Committee also received details of the Audit Plans for each client department for 2005/06. Each Department had been consulted on the Plans.

Resolved:

- (1) *To note the report.*
- (2) *To ask officers to send a copy of the report to all Cabinet Members and to the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee for their information.*

30. **Proposed Indemnity for Members and Officers** The Committee considered a report by the Monitoring Officer. The report informed members of the introduction of new legislation clarifying the Council's powers to indemnify members and officers for personal liability arising from actions or decisions taken by them in the course of their official duties.

Resolved:

- (1) *To note the scope and effect of the regulations.*
- (2) *To recommend the County Council to*
 - (a) *Grant an indemnity for members and officers in the terms set out in Appendix 1 of the report.*
 - (b) *Ask the County Treasurer to secure insurance to cover the Council's liability under the proposed indemnity in so far as he considers this to be financially prudent.*

31. **Date of Next Meeting**

Resolved: *To agree that the date of the next meeting should be changed to Thursday 15 September 2005 at 3pm.*

(Duration of meeting: 1pm – 3.15pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Marie Todd, of Democratic & Members' Services, direct line (01225) 713011, e-mail marietodd@wiltshire.gov.uk

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