

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a MEETING of the STANDARDS COMMITTEE held at COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE on THURSDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2005.

PRESENT:

Mr G Gooch, Mr M Hewson and Mrs P Rugg.

32. **Appointment of Chairman for the Meeting** In the absence of both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman,

Resolved: To appoint Mr G Gooch as Chairman for the duration of the meeting.

33. **Apologies** Apologies for absence were received from Mr P Lefever, Mr P McGuigan and Ms C O'Sullivan.

34. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Resolved: To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2005.

35. **Fourth Annual Assembly of Standards Committees, 5 - 6 September, 2005 at Birmingham** The Committee received an oral report by the Corporate Standards Manager. The report outlined the main issues which were raised and discussed at the Annual Conference. The recent consultation on the Members' Code of Conduct, conducted by the Standards Board for England, formed a major focus of the conference presentations. The Minister was now considering whether amendments should be made to the Code. Further information about this would be brought to this Committee in due course.

Resolved: To note the report.

36. **Establishment of a Final Accounts and Audit Committee** On considering a report by the County Treasurer,

Resolved:

- (1) *To note that the County Council has approved an extension to the terms of reference of the Final Accounts Committee to incorporate governance, internal control and audit matters and, accordingly, has approved a change of name to the Final Accounts and Audit Committee.*
- (2) *To note that, as a result of this change, the Standards Committee will no longer have responsibility for oversight of internal and external audit.*
- (3) *To note that a report would be presented to the next meeting of this Committee regarding a review of its areas of responsibility.*

37. **Statement on Internal Control in Local Government** Consideration was given to a joint report by the Monitoring Officer and the County Treasurer seeking the Committee's views on a draft Statement on Internal Control for 2004/05. It was noted that the views of both this Committee and the Cabinet, which would be considering the report the following day, would be passed to the Final Accounts and Audit Committee when final approval of the Statement would be sought at its next meeting on 26 September 2005.

Resolved:

- (1) *To approve the draft Statement on Control for 2004/05, subject to the amendments as shown in the document attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes.*
- (2) *To recommend that when next year's version is drafted every effort should be made to ensure that it is written in plain English, which would be easily understood by members of the public.*

(Duration of meeting: 3.00pm – 4.00pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Roger Bishton, of Democratic & Members' Services, direct line (01225) 713035, e-mail rogerbishton@wiltshire.gov.uk

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