

## WEST WILTSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of the: STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**Held on: WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2008**

**Held in: THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, BRADLEY ROAD  
TROWBRIDGE**

**Present:**

District Council Representatives: Cllrs Ezra, Martindale and March

External Representatives: Tony Frost (Chairman) and Bruce Epsley

Town/Parish Representatives: Cllr Wyeth

**Also present:**

Officers: Monitoring Officer (TD), Lawyer (GM) and Member Support Team Leader (KH)

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Clark, Kinder and Gerry Robson.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **3. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman informed the committee that he had attended a conference in Devizes regarding the Standards Board. He also attended a recent WCC Standards Committee meeting to hear a talk by the Ombudsman.

The Chairman reported that there will be a meeting for Independent Standards Committee Members for District Councils and that he will be attending and will report back at the next meeting.

### **4. MINUTES**

The minutes of 12 December 2007 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

## **5. ORDERS AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE CONDUCT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS IN ENGLAND - CONSULTATION**

Open Forum speakers:

Mr Francis Morland

The Monitoring Officer presented a report to enable the Standards Committee to consider the above consultation and to make a response to the Department of Communities and Local Government by 15 February 2008.

The monitoring Officer had already proposed responses to the consultation for the Committee to agree or amend.

A discussion ensued.

### **RESOLVED:**

**The response to the consultation be submitted with the following two amendments:**

- 1. Question 1: There should be a separation of members' roles between the three stages of assessment, review and hearing.**
- 2. Question 4: There should be no exceptions to the rule that a written summary of the allegation is made available to a subject member at the time the initial assessment is made.**

## **6. SIZE AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE - RESULTS OF CONSULTATION WITH TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS**

The Monitoring Officer presented a report on the results of the consultation with Town and Parish Councils on the size and composition of the Standards Committee.

A discussion ensued.

### **RESOLVED:**

**That the Committee:**

- 1. Committee confirms its preference for a Standards Committee of 12, made up of four independent members, four town/parish members and four District Council members, with three sub committees operating under model 3.**
- 2. Council is recommended to approve the above changes and authorise amendments to the constitution as necessary to implement them.**

**3. Following Council approval the additional appointments are made as soon as possible.**

**7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting of the Standards Committee will be held on Thursday 12 March 2008 in the Council Chamber, at the Council Offices, Bradley Road, Trowbridge.

(7.00pm – 7.40pm)

These minutes were prepared by Karen Hart, Member Support Team Leader, who can be contacted on 01225 776655 ext 242.