

## STANDARDS COMMITTEE

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**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 APRIL 2012 AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNCIL OFFICES, MONKTON PARK, CHIPPENHAM, SN15 1ER.**

**Present:**

Wiltshire Council Members

Cllr Nigel Carter, Cllr Peter Fuller, Cllr Julian Johnson and Cllr Ian McLennan

Town/Parish Council Co-opted Members

Mr William Bailey, Mr Craig McCallum, Mr Paul Neale, Mr Robert Oglesby JP, Mr John Scragg, Miss Pam Turner and His Hon David MacLaren Webster QC

Independent co-opted Members

Mr Philip Gill MBE JP, Mrs Isabel McCord (Chairman), Mr Stuart Middleton and Mr Gerry Robson OBE (Vice Chairman)

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**24 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Mrs Jane Bayley, Mr Michael Cronin and Cllr Howard Marshall.

**25 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**26 Chairman's announcements**

The Chair sent the Committees best wishes for a speedy recovery to Cllr Howard Marshall.

**27 Public Participation and Questions from Committee Members.**

There were no members of the public present.

**28 New Standards Framework - Further Update**

The Monitoring Officer introduced the report.

The Monitoring Officer explained that since the last meeting there had been amendments to the report and appendices which took into consideration the feedback from the constitution focus group, and this was a further opportunity for the committee to consider the proposed final version of the documents.

The Committee considered the report and appendices and it was agreed that further amendments be made as detailed below.

A debate over the code of conduct templates concluded that whilst the current templates gave a base to work from they did not completely meet the committee's vision for Wiltshire Council's code of conduct. It was agreed that a task finish group should meet to look at the code of conduct in light of the debate today and any views from the constitution focus group being held on 19 April 2012, and that a draft code of conduct should be brought to the next meeting being held on 2 May 2012.

**Resolved:**

- 1. To approve the final version of the documents set out in appendices 1-3 of the report and recommend these to the Council for approval on 15 May 2012 subject to amendments detailed below:**

**Arrangements for dealing with Code of Conduct Complaints under the Localism Act 2012:**

- To add a 'deeming clause' to determine when a request for review can be made**

**In Appendix A:**

- In the left hand box change 12.3 to 12.2**

**In the draft terms of reference:**

- Change wording of point 3 to remove the details of the initial terms for co-opted non-voting members and include these in a briefing paper**
- Include in Composition that the Chairman will be elected by the Committee and must be an elected member.**

- **Amend points 8 and 9 to clarify that the same member cannot serve on both the Hearing Committee and the Review Committee**
2. **That the Task and Finish Group develop a draft code of conduct taking into account the views of the Standards Committee and the Constitution Focus Group, with the outcome informing a report by the Monitoring Officer to be brought to the next meeting of the Standards Committee 2 May 2012.**
  3. **To note the steps being taken to update parish, town and city councillors on the new framework.**

**29 Draft Standards Committee Annual Report 2011/12**

The Chairman introduced the draft Standards Committee Annual Report 2011/12.

**Resolved:**

1. **To rephrase the first paragraph in the Chairman's foreword to remove the word 'issues'**
2. **To amend the photograph to reflect the current membership**
3. **To confirm that the Committee did take on the responsibility of considering applications for exemption from the holders of politically restricted posts**
4. **To add an extra column to the breakdown of complaints showing the number of cases proven**
5. **To add a paragraph showing a comparison with another similar local authority such as Cornwall**

**30 Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 2.00 - 3.50 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Kirsty Butcher, of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 718371, e-mail [kirsty.butcher@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:kirsty.butcher@wiltshire.gov.uk)

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