

## STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2010 at 6 pm  
in Committee Room 4, The Council House, Dudley

### PRESENT: -

The Bishop of Dudley (Independent Chairman)  
Councillors Burston, Kettle, Mrs Martin and Ms Partridge; Mrs V Ainsworth and  
Father A Williams.

### Officers: -

The Directorate of Corporate Resources, the Interim Assistant Director Legal and  
Democratic Services and Mr J Jablonski (Directorate of Law, Property and Human  
Resources).

### 1 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor J.  
R. Davies.

### 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No member made a declaration of interest, in accordance with Members' Code of  
Conduct, in respect of any matter to be considered at this meeting.

### 3 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting at the Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2010,  
be approved as a correct record and signed.

### 4 APPOINTMENT OF SUB COMMITTEES FOR 2010/11

A report of the Monitoring Officer was submitted on the re-appointment of the  
Committee's three Sub Committee's for the 2010/11 municipal year, so as to  
continue the arrangements for the local initial assessment and hearing of complaints  
under the Member's Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED

That the Referrals Sub Committee, Review Sub Committee and Hearings  
Sub Committee be re-appointed for the 2010/11 municipal year with the  
following memberships and with their existing terms of reference:-

Referral Sub  
Committee

Mrs V Ainsworth  
(Chairman)  
Councillors J R Davies  
Kettle

Review Sub Committee

Father Alan Williams  
(Chairman)  
Councillors Burston  
Ms Partridge

Hearing Sub  
Committee

The Bishop of Dudley  
(Chairman)  
Councillor Mrs Martin  
Vacancy (Labour  
Group)

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WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11

A report of the Monitoring Officer was submitted on a proposed work programme for the Committee for 2010/11.

During his presentation of the report the Director of Corporate Resources reported that the Code of Corporate Governance previously considered by the Committee would now be considered by the Audit Committee and that as previously other items could be added into the programme during the course of the year.

RESOLVED

That the work programme of the Committee for 2010/11, as set out below, be approved:-

Date of meeting

Items of business

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2010

- Appointment of sub-committees
- Legal update (verbal)
- Politically Restricted Posts

13<sup>th</sup> October 2010

- Review of Confidential Reporting Policy
- Annual Report – Members Code of Conduct
- Update of the Code of Conduct for employees

10<sup>th</sup> January 2011

- Annual report Of the Committee on Standards in Public Life
- Summary of Decisions by the Adjudication Panel for England

12<sup>th</sup> April 2011

- Review of procedures for Local Determination of complaints
- Update on the Anti-Fraud and Corruption strategy.

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POLITICALLY RESTRICTED POSTS

A report of the Monitoring Officer was submitted on a list of Politically Restricted Posts, as required by Section 30 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act, 2009, as requested at the previous meeting of the Committee.

A copy of a list of Politically Restricted Posts was circulated at the meeting indicating those posts which were 'Specified Posts' and 'Sensitive Posts'. Only employees whose post fell in the category of a 'Sensitive Post' had a right of appeal to the Standards Committee on the grounds that the Authority had wrongly applied the criteria when including the post in the list.

Officers included in the list would shortly be notified of their inclusion.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted and the list of Politically Restricted Posts ,circulated at the meeting ,be received and noted.

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LEGAL UPDATE

The Director of Corporate Resources informed the Committee of the following matters:-

- (a) The receipt of a letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2010 from Standards for England referring to an announcement made by Government in the recent Queen's speech that the proposed Decentralisation and Localism bill would include proposals to 'abolish the Standards Board regime'. The letter also stated that until such time as the relevant legislation was passed the statutory framework remained operative; and
- (b) That training in particular for new members had been organised on the Code of Conduct for Members for Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2010 at 6.00pm at the Council House, Dudley, and that any other members who wish to attend would be welcome.

RESOLVED

That the matters reported on be noted.

The meeting ended at 6.32 pm.

CHAIRMAN