

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Personnel Committee held in the Wantsum Room, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Monday, 22 December 2008.

PRESENT: Mr P B Carter (Chairman), Mr N J D Chard, Ms A Harrison, Mr C Hart, Mr K G Lynes (Vice-Chairman), Mr R J Parry (Substitute for Mr A J King, MBE) and Mr G Rowe.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms A Beer (Director Of Personnel & Development), Mr P Sass (Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership) and Mr G Mills (Democratic Services Manager (Executive))

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

25. Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG)

(Item 3 – Report by Mr A J King, Deputy Leader and Mrs Amanda Beer, Director of Personnel and Development)

(1) On 1 October 2008 the Department for Communities and Local Government issued a consultation paper on proposed revisions to the Code of Conduct for Members, together with a new proposed model Code of Conduct for Local Government Employees. Mrs Beer said that the report was being submitted to the Personnel Committee at the specific request of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee. The Kent Code relating to KCC officers had been revised over the past 12 months, and had previously been considered by the Personnel Committee. Also The Kent Code was embodied in the Constitution and therefore Mrs Beer did not see the need for Kent to adopt the proposed DCLG model Code of Conduct.

(2) Ms Harrison said that she believed that members and officers should be treated the same and therefore should be subject to the same code of conduct. She also said that if not already representatives from outside bodies and co-opted members who served on KCC Committees and Groups should be made subject to CRB checks. She also said with the closing date for responses to the DCLG being 24 December 2008, Members should in future be given more time to make their views known on consultations of this nature. Mr Sass said that he would ascertain if under the terms of their appointment co-opted Members were automatically given a CRB check and would advise Members of the Committee accordingly. Mrs Beer said that as part of their induction new members of staff automatically have the terms of the Kent Code brought to their attention and confirmed that the terms of the Kent Code were more comprehensive than the terms proposed under the DCLG model Code. She also confirmed that the trades unions had been consulted and that the normal procedure on consultations such as this would be to clear the response with the relevant Cabinet Member.

(3) Following further discussion the Committee RESOLVED that the proposed response to Chapter 3 of the Department for Communities and Local Government's Consultation Paper on a proposed model Code of Conduct for Local Government Employees be approved as detailed in Appendix 3 of the Committee report.