

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Standards Committee held at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Wednesday 26 May 2005.

PRESENT: Mr J A Ogden DL (Chairman), Mr L Christie, Mr D Daley, Mrs F Leathers Mr J London and Miss R MacCrone.

OFFICERS: The County Secretary, Mr G Wild, the Deputy Monitoring Officer, Mr M Powis and the Member Services Manager, Mrs J A Corbyn.

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

1. Membership

Mr J London (Conservative), Mr L Christie (Labour) and Mr D Daley (Liberal Democrat) join the Independent members of this Committee following the elections in May.

2. Election of Chairman

Mr John Ogden DL was proposed as Chairman by Miss R MacCrone and seconded by Mrs F Leathers. All agreed.

3. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2005 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3a. Matters Arising

The advice on Freemason membership was included in the advice on Register of Interests.

4. New Member Induction on Code of Conduct

Five newly elected Members were not present for the training on the Code of Conduct at the main Induction day. This training will take place separately when they are free to attend a session.

5. Annual Reports

Members noted the relatively small number of employed elected Members. The reports highlighted a need for several Members to receive further IT training. The differences in the total number of meetings which took place was remarked upon and Members were informed that this is very simple to locate on the Knet site. The overall submission of reports had been relatively good providing the Independent members with an overview of a member's role within the community. Discussion took place regarding five members who had failed to submit forms and it was agreed that they would be written to, to request their forms be forwarded without further delay. Forms were still awaited from Messrs Bullock, Copping, Hansell, Mersh and Mrs Cufley. Mr Hansell's long term ill-health was taken into account in the

discussion. It was agreed that some minor adjustments would be made to the next Annual Report form and that an advance copy would be made available to new Members to identify the information that they would be required to complete next April.

6. Register of Interests

Report to be brought forward to the next meeting of this Committee.

7. Draft Annual Report to Council

Para 9 of the draft report refers to the dual role of independent members serving both the Remuneration Panel and the Standards Committee. The recommendation from the independent Selection Panel was that both the panel and the committee should be served by the same independent members. However, the ODPM has indicated that there should be separate independent representation on the Panel and the Committee. The County Secretary advises that this should be brought into practice at the next reconstitution of the Panel and that there should be a staggering of retirement times for these Independent members to allow for experienced members to work alongside newly recruited members.

8. Consultation on the Code of Conduct

Amendments were suggested to several of the answers contained in the draft response and these will be incorporated in the final response to be sent by KCC.

9. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the Committee would meet again in the autumn at a time and date to be agreed nearer the time.

Signed by Chairman

Dated