

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Standards Committee held in the Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Tuesday, 6 March 2007.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: The Director of Law and Governance, Mr G Wild; the Head of Democratic Services, Mr S C Ballard; and Democratic Services Manager (Council, Governance and Appeals) Mrs M Cooper.

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2006
(Item 1)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2006 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

2. Proposed New Code of Conduct for Members - Consultation
(Item 2 - Report by Head of Democratic Services)

(1) The Committee noted that the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) had published a consultation paper seeking views by 9 March on a draft of a proposed new Model Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members. The report included the consultation paper and a suggested draft response to be submitted by the Council.

(2) RESOLVED that the response as set out in Appendix 1 to these Minutes be submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

3. Proposed Programme of Work
(Item 3 - Report by Head of Democratic Services)

(1) The Committee noted that the changes proposed in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill would inevitably give Standards Committees a much higher profile and considered adopting a work programme which would (a) prepare it for its new role when the provisions in the Bill take effect (late 2007/early 2008); and (b) enable it to raise awareness of standards issues within the Council.

(2) RESOLVED that the proposed programme of work as set out in Appendix 2 to these Minutes be noted.

4. Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill
(Item 4 – Report by Head of Democratic Services)

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

5. Independent Members of the Standards Committee
(Item 5 – Report by Head of Democratic Services)

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

6. Standards Board for England Roadshow 2007
(Item 6 – Report by Head of Democratic Services)

- (1) The Standards Board for England had invited all authorities to send up to four delegates to roadshows which it is holding throughout England during June 2007.
- (2) RESOLVED that four places be reserved for Members/officers at the roadshow to be held in London on 28 June 2007.