

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

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## STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Standards Committee held at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Wednesday, 30 May 2007.

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

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

### UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

#### 7. Minutes (Item 1)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2007 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman. With reference to Minute 3, Appendix 2 was circulated at the meeting.

#### *Matters Arising*

(a) With reference to Minute 5, the Head of Democratic Services informed the Committee that in view of the poor response to the original advertisement for new Independent Members, the Independent Selection Panel was recommending to the Council that the recruitment process should be re-started and that, in the meantime, the terms of office of the existing Independent Members should be temporarily extended.

(b) With reference to Minute 6 the Head of Democratic Services reported that four places for Members of the Committee had been reserved at the Standards Board for England Road Show which would be held on the morning of 28 June 2007 at Glaziers Hall, London.

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

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the proposed new Code of Conduct for Members be recommended to the Council for adoption;
- (b) the new advice note for Members on the registration and declaration of interests be approved; and
- (c) subject to the agreement of the Chairman of the Council, a training presentation on the Code of Conduct be given to Members at the County Council at its meeting on 21 June 2007.

**9. Members' Annual Reports**

*(Item 3 - Report by Head of Democratic Services)*

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the Annual Reports be noted;
- (b) in future, guidance be given to Members about how to show political group activity on the Annual Report form;
- (c) the covering report be included as Item 4 in the Annual Report of the Standards Committee to the County Council on 21 June 2007 subject to amendments agreed; and
- (d) computer training be offered to all Members in January in order that they can complete their annual report electronically.

**10. New Allegations to Standards Board for England against KCC Members**

*(Item 4 - Report by Head of Democratic Services)*

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**11. Complaints to Standards Board for England – Annual Report on Statistics**

*(Item 5 - Report by Head of Democratic Services)*

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**12. Standards Committee Annual Report**

*(Item 6 - Report by Head of Democratic Services)*

RESOLVED that subject to the addition of Member Annual Reports at Item 4, the report be approved for submission to the County Council on 21 June 2007.