

PRESENT: MR J KRAWIEC (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors D R Dickinson, Mrs M Overton and N I Jackson.

Mr R A Daff, Mr J A Hanna, Mr J Krawiec, Mrs C A Lloyd and Mr S J Williams.

Also in attendance: Steven Ratcliffe, Head of Corporate Standards and Rachel Wilson, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H R Johnson and R Sellars.

1. ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN FOR 2010-2011

It was proposed and seconded that Mr J Krawiec be elected as Chairman of the Standards Committee for the year 2010-2011.

RESOLVED

That Mr J Krawiec be elected as Chairman for the year 2010 – 2011.

The new Chairman suggested he should write a letter of thanks to the previous Chairman, thanking him for his past service to the Standards Committee.

2. ELECTION OF A VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR 2010-2011

It was proposed and seconded that Mrs C A Lloyd be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee for the year 2010-2011.

RESOLVED

That Mrs C A Lloyd be elected as Vice-Chairman for the year 2010-2011.

3. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest at this point in the meeting.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 APRIL 2010

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 April 2010 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Working Groups (Minute 56, resolution 4)

The Head of Corporate Standards reported that no report for this item had been produced as agreed at the previous meeting. He informed the Committee that this was due to a number of reasons including that there was no clear guidance on this

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available at the moment, and therefore it would be more appropriate to defer this item as the Committee was not due to reappoint any Members in the near future.

RESOLVED

That this item be deferred until such time as clear guidance is available.

The Head of Corporate Standards took this opportunity to welcome the new Independent Added Member of the Standards Committee, Mr S J Williams, to his first meeting.

6. QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

7. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements from the Chairman.

8. OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS/UPDATES

The Head of Corporate Standards informed the Committee that there had not been a new Standards for England bulletin since the one issued in February 2010.

An update was provided to the Committee by the Head of Corporate Standards which outlined the Coalition Government's proposal to abolish the Standards Board regime. It was noted that it was not yet clear what this entailed other than the abolition of Standards for England. One immediate consequence was the cancellation of the 2010 Annual Assembly in Birmingham, due to have been held in mid-October. Various press releases were circulated to the Committee which were relevant to this issue.

A number of recent cases, it was thought the Committee would find interesting were distributed and discussed, these included Allerdale Borough Council, Fenland District Council, Cornwall Council, Hyndburn Borough Council and Wolverhampton City Council. It was requested that for future meetings, these cases were sent by e-mail prior to the meeting in order to give the members sufficient time to take in all the information.

Other items brought to the attention of the Committee were that there was likely to be a delay in the production of the Training and Development Manual due to work pressures in the Graphics team, however, it was suggested that this only be circulated to members electronically either on a disc or a memory stick, in order to save on cost. However, there was a reminder that care would need to be taken to ensure that the electronic copy was kept up to date. It was also reported that the "Working Together" document would shortly be signed by all Chairmen, and a meeting between the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Standards, Audit and Overview and Scrutiny Management committees would take place in the autumn. Other matters highlighted were the "Compact Toolkit" and the Lincolnshire Standards forum, which was to be hosted by West Lindsey District Council on Wednesday 22 September 2010.

The Head of Corporate Standards informed the Committee that as the Annual Assembly had been cancelled, the date of the October meeting could revert back to Monday 18 October as originally scheduled, and the Committee was asked to consider what they would prefer. It was agreed that the date should remain as Monday 25 October, as members had already got this in their diaries and it was also noted that the longer it was left until the meeting, increased the chance of receiving details of the changes to the Standards regime for local government.

RESOLVED

- (1) That examples of interesting cases be circulated via e-mail prior to the meeting
- (2) That the Training and Development manual be circulated electronically and no hard copies produced.
- (3) That the date of the next meeting remain as Monday 25 October 2010.

9. WORK PROGRAMME 2010-2011

The Head of Corporate Standards reviewed what had discussed in the morning session which had been held to determine the contents of the work programme for the Standards Committee. It was suggested that members would find it useful to take part in a one day training session on "Local Assessment". It thought it would be useful to undertake training on hearings, by holding role play sessions, and have a complete mock-up of a Standards hearing for members to take part in.

It was queried whether there would be a need, in the case of a hearing having to be convened, for the person who clerked it to be trained in taking the minutes of a standards hearing and it was noted that this would need to have a legal background and it was likely that it would be the Head of Corporate Standards would record the minutes of the proceedings.

It was also suggested that an article be placed in Inside Lincolnshire to raise the profile of the Standards Committee.

It was also reported that with regard to the two working groups which were Processes and Procedures and Training and Development, it was felt that it may be more appropriate to adopt the same approach as other committees, and have Task and Finish groups which would be project based with a clear end date.

It was also requested that for all day meetings, alternative arrangements be made for lunch, and the possibility of lunch vouchers for use in the County Restaurant would be looked into.

10. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items to report.

11. ACTION PLAN

As the Committee was in the process of finalising its work programme, there was no longer a need for an action plan.

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12. ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Monday 25 October 2010 at 2.00pm

The meeting finished at 4.00pm