

STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

As this is my first (and almost certainly the last) Annual report on the work of the Lincolnshire County Council's Standards Committee then it is fitting that I should pay tribute and express appreciation to my predecessor as Chairman Group Capt Philip Rodgers M.B.E who stepped down last May after 3 years as Chairman. He worked tirelessly to ensure that standards were at the heart of the county council agenda and the committee and I am grateful for his efforts.

The Government announced in the middle of 2010 that the current standards regime was to be abolished and with it would come the demise of Standards committees. The legislation is currently going through parliament and it is likely that it will become law in the autumn. Until then the regime will continue to be in existence

The Government is of the view that councils should police themselves as to standards and it for each authority to decide how best to do this. Our committee has been charged to devise and recommend an appropriate simplified code of conduct which hopefully can be adapted by all relevant councils in Lincolnshire. It is a tribute to the current membership of the committee that rather than expressing angst as to its imminent demise that it is working hard to come up with something that is practicable and simple to understand and administer.

The workload of the committee has not been onerous and this reflects well on the high standards of behaviour within the County Council. Some other local authorities are not so fortunate in this respect.

Throughout the year the committee of both elected and appointed members have worked well together in a good humoured way (always in a non-partisan way and with the well being of the County Council at the core of its agenda). We have been well served by extremely able officers and in particular I would like to express our appreciation and thanks to Steven Ratcliffe, Rachel Wilson and the Monitoring officer David O'Connor who all gave unstintingly of their time and have always acted in a friendly but always professional manner.

As I have said the current standards regime is coming to an end and whilst I am confident that members' behaviour in Lincolnshire will remain at its current high level it remains to be seen if this will be the case elsewhere in England.

J.K.M (George) Krawiec LI.B
Chairman