

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

www.bradford.gov.uk

(stamins.dot)

Minutes of a meeting of the Standards Committee held on Wednesday 23 June 2010 at City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 1405
Concluded 1455

PRESENT –

Independent Persons

Mr G Dobson, The Very Revd Dr D J Ison and Mrs Mullen

Parish and Town Council Members

Parish Councillor Bowen

Councillors

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Owens	Lee	G Reid
D Smith	A Thornton	

Apologies: Mr Shakeel, Town Councillor Mitchell, Councillor Binney and Councillor Ferriby

The Very Revd Dr D J Ison in the Chair

1. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest in matters under consideration were received.

2. MINUTES

Resolved -

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2010 be signed as a correct record.



2006-2007
Improving Rural Services
Empowering Communities



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Suzan Hemingway, Assistant Director Corporate Services (City Solicitor)



BRADFORD
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

3 INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no appeals submitted by the public to review decisions to restrict documents.

4. MONITORING OFFICER'S REPORT ON COMPLAINTS

The Monitoring Officer reported to the meeting the receipt of complaints notified to her, the stage that any notified complaint had reached and the final outcome on the consideration of complaints, where appropriate.

She advised that, in respect of an ongoing complaint, the subject Member was no longer a Member of Council. She had contacted the complainant to ascertain whether they wished to continue with the complaint and, once she had their view, she would also consult Standards for England as the Committee would have a very limited role to play with such a complaint.

Members discussed whether to take steps to conclude the investigation, whether to have a time limit within which such a complaint remained "live" and whether, if there were no hearing that would give either party any element of conclusion to a complaint.

Members then discussed the issue of complaints being submitted immediately before an election period and so having a disproportionate effect on a Member's reputation.

Resolved –

- (1) That consideration of complaint 2009/08 be deferred until guidance has been received from Standards for England.**
- (2) That the Monitoring Officer consult her fellow West Yorkshire Monitoring Officers on the issue of complaints received immediately prior to an election before bringing a report to a future meeting of the Committee on that issue.**

ACTION: Assistant Director Corporate Services (City Solicitor)

5. APPOINTMENT OF HEARINGS PANELS

The Committee was advised that the Constitution required it to appoint the following Sub-Committees:-

- i) Assessment Sub-Committee
- ii) Review Sub-Committee
- iii) Consideration Sub-Committee
- iv) Determination Sub-Committee

The Panels were required to hear and determine allegations of breach of the relevant code(s) of conduct by Members of Council and of Parish and Town Councils respectively.

Resolved -

That the Assessment, Review, Consideration and Determination Sub-Committees be appointed with memberships and role and functions as contained in the Constitution and subject to the Rules of Procedure contained in Part 3 of the Constitution adopted by Annual Council on 25 May 2010.

ACTION: Assistant Director Corporate Services (City Solicitor)

6. WEST YORKSHIRE REGIONAL STANDARDS CONFERENCE

Members were reminded that the second West Yorkshire Regional Standards Conference was to be held on Wednesday 7 July 2010 in the Banqueting Suite, City Hall, Bradford.

Representatives from all five West Yorkshire Standards Committees would be attending and, as well as forming part of the member development programme for members of the Bradford Standards Committee it was hoped that it would provide a valuable opportunity to network with member colleagues from across the Region.

The programme for the conference was circulated and Members were advised that there had been very positive feedback from the first conference held last year.

Among the invitees for this year's conference were the District Auditor, Rachel Lindley and representatives from Standards for England.

Members indicated their availability to attend on the day.

No Action

7. NINTH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF STANDARDS COMMITTEES

Members noted that the ninth annual assembly of Standards Committees was to have been held in Birmingham on 18/19 October 2010.

However, the Chair advised that he had received correspondence from Standards for England indicating that the future of the organisation was uncertain following the recent change in Government. As result of that uncertainty, the Annual Assembly had been cancelled.

The Monitoring Officer also stated that it was difficult to be certain about the future of SFE, although the statutory framework would remain in place for the present while.

Members noted the update provided.

No Action

8. DATES OF MEETINGS

Resolved –

That the following programme of dates be approved :

23 June 2010

21 July 2010

29 September 2010

11 November 2010

23 December 2010

20 January 2011

17 February 2011

24 March 2011

18 May 2011

ACTION: Assistant Director Corporate Services (City Solicitor)

9. STANDARDS COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

An updated copy of the Committee's work programme was provided at the meeting for Members' information.

The Chair indicated that he wished to limit future meetings to one major item for discussion per meeting.

No Action

Chair

Note: These minutes are subject to approval as a correct record at the next meeting of the Committee.