
STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 DECEMBER 2011

Members of the Council

Councillors Burke, Matthews (Mayor), Osmond, Parnell and Turner

Independent Members

Mr Brian Hooper (Chair), Mr David Blake, Mrs Elizabeth Hale and Mr Geoff Wilkinson

Apologies

Councillors Drake and Noon

Also in attendance:

Kate Handy and Mike Bowers – Audit Commission

14. **STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR**

Following a meeting of the Standards and Governance (Assessment Sub-Committee) at which consideration was given to a complaint against a former Councillor, the Chair recommended that guidance be offered to all Members on appropriate methods of communication with the public. The Committee agreed to refer the training request to the next Members User Group Meeting.

15. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING)**

RESOLVED: that the minutes for the Committee meetings on 8th and 28th September 2011 be approved and signed as a correct record. (Copy of the minutes circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

16. **AUDIT COMMISSION: ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2010/11**

The Committee noted the report of the Chief Internal Auditor concerning the Annual Audit Letter presenting the results of the statutory audit of the Council's 2010/11 financial statements and the assessment of arrangements to achieve value for money in the Council's use of resources. (Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

17. **LOCALISM ACT - UPDATE**

The Committee received a verbal update of the Acting Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services regarding the Localism Act 2011 in relation to the new Standards regime and revised Members' Code of Conduct. It was agreed that a further updated briefing session for Members would be held at an appropriate date in the New Year and a further detailed report on the proposals requiring local consideration and adoption to be presented to the Committee in the Spring.