



Minutes of the Standards Committee

3 June 2010

-: Present :-

Councillor Doggett, Hodge and Stocks

Town Councillors Henderson and Lomas

Independent Members Bastow, Dalzell, Heath, Hutchinson and Faryna

67. Election of Chairman/woman

Mr Heath was elected as Chairman for the 2010/2011 Municipal Year.

Mr Heath in the Chair

68. Apologies.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Aiton, Town Councillor Killick and Independent Member Mr Branch.

69. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

Mr Dalzell was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year.

70. Minutes.

The Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 11 March 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

71. Communications

The Chairman read to the Committee a letter from Standards for England dated 1 June 2010. The letter advised Members of the Government's intention to abolish Standards for England, however noted that until relevant legislation had been passed the statutory framework remained operative.

72. Terms of Reference of Standards Committee and Appointment of Standards Sub-Committees

Members received and noted the terms of reference for the Standards Committee (Report 119/2009) which had been adopted at the adjourned meeting of the Council held on 13 May 2009.

Resolved:

- (i) that a Referrals Sub-Committee be established with the membership and Terms of Reference set out in Report 119/2009;
- (ii) that a Review Sub-Committee be established with the membership and Terms of Reference set out in Report 119/2009;
- (iii) that a Hearings Sub-Committee be established with the membership and Terms of Reference set out in Report 119/2009;
- (iv) that a Standards Appointments Sub-Committee be established with the membership and Terms of Reference set out in Report 119/2008;

73. Standards Committee Work Programme

Members received Report 146/2010 which set out the work 2010/2011 work programme. Members were advised that the working group had met to discuss how the work programme could be implemented with Annex A to Report 146/2010 setting out the actions.

Members noted the work that would be undertaken to raise the profile of Standards and Ethics across the Council's partner organisations. Members acknowledged that the Committee cannot impose Standards on to another organisation but the Committee can offer advice and guidance.

The Independent Members further noted that they would continue to undertake a series of meeting observations and provide feedback and that the feedback forms would be released to the media.

74. Local Standards 2.0 – The Proportionality Upgrade? A Review of the Local Standards Framework

Members deferred Report 147/2010 until the next meeting of the Standards Committee on 25 November 2010 when it was hoped there would be more guidance from Government regarding the Standards regime.

75. Annual Return 2010

Members noted Report 148/2010 which set out the answers provided for the Standards for England Annual Return 2010. Members paid particular attention to the answers provided for the questions relating to training and requested that Brixham Town Council be invited to training events. The Committee also requested a report be presented to the next Standards Committee on the levels of those attending training and the training programme for after the Local Election.

76. Statistics

Members received Report 149/2010 which provided statistics for the period of April 2009 to April 2010 to enable the Committee to affectively monitor its performance. Members noted that all but one Referral Sub-Committee had been held within 20 days

of receipt of complaint, Members requested that all efforts be made to ensure all Referral and Review Sub-Committees be held within 20 days.

77. The Adjudication Panel

Members received and noted Report 150/2010 which provided examples of cases where Adjudication Panel Tribunals had been undertaken which would aid Members of Torbay Council's Standards Committee in furthering its objective of making sound and equitable decisions.

78. Communication Articles

Members noted Report 151/2010 which were articles that were due to be published in the Torbay View and the Council's internal newsletters.

Chairman
