

STANDARDS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Meeting held on Monday, 5th July, 2010 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 5.30 p.m.

Voting Members

Reverend Father K. Hodges (Chairman)
Cr. A.M. Ferrier (Vice-Chairman)

Mr. D. Austin

Cr. D. Cappleman
Mr. B. Hambleton

Cr. N.M.J. Dewey

81. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN –

RESOLVED: That Reverend Father K. Hodges be appointed Chairman of the Committee for the 2010/11 Municipal Year.

82. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN –

RESOLVED: That Cr. A.M. Ferrier be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the 2010/11 Municipal Year.

83. MINUTES –

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st March, 2010 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

84. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT -

The Committee considered the Solicitor to the Council's Report No. LEG1008, which set out the Council's Annual Governance Statement for 2009/10 for consideration and approval. The Statement, as appended to the Report, confirmed that no significant issues of internal control had been identified.

The Report reviewed the actions that had been identified and planned the previous year, which included equality and diversity training, service transformation work, developing a strategy for future service delivery and the development of a data security policy. The significant governance issues which had been identified for 2010/11 included efforts to recover outstanding amounts from Icelandic investments, work on the new requirements for IFRS (International Financial Reporting Standards) and a new BACS transmission system.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Governance Statement attached at Appendix 1 to the report:

- (i) be approved for adoption; and
- (ii) be included in the Council's Statement of Accounts

85. RUSHMOOR MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME – ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS -

The Committee considered the Head of Democratic Services' Report No. DEM1004, which gave details of attendance by Members at meetings during the 2009/10 Municipal Year.

The Committee was advised that attendance by Members at principal meetings for 2009/10 was slightly lower than the previous year with a 1% increase in the overall absence figure. In addition, there had been some monitoring of attendance at groups set up by the Policy and Review Panels. Over the past year, approximately 50 task and finish group meetings had been held, and attendance at these meetings was usually very good as group numbers were small and dates were arranged based on Members' availability. Attendance at Members' seminars and training sessions had also been monitored, and this showed that most events achieved attendances in the range 50-55%.

RESOLVED: That the Head of Democratic Services' Report No. DEM1004 be noted.

86. INDEPENDENT MEMBERS' FORUM -

The Committee received the notes of the Independent Members' Forum Meeting held on 17th March, 2010. The Committee noted that a Council had been seeking to remove an Independent Chair, and it was commented that a good working relationship between a Monitoring Officer and Standards Chairman was important. Members also confirmed that they would continue to support the case for local authorities to have Associate Membership of the Forum, rather than personal memberships.

RESOLVED: That the notes of the Independent Members' Forum Meeting held on 17th March, 2010 be noted.

87. STANDARDS FOR ENGLAND AND WORKING ARRANGEMENTS -

The Committee received copies of recent correspondence from Standards for England, which referred to the new Coalition Government's intention to 'abolish the Standards Board regime'. The correspondence advised that the scope and implications of this proposal were currently unclear, but that further details would emerge in the proposed Decentralisation and Localism Bill which was expected in the Autumn.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

88. **WORK PROGRAMME -**

The Committee received the work programme, which set out the items planned for the next meeting. It was noted that a training session for standards hearings would be arranged for September 2010. It was also agreed that the next meeting would be held on Monday, 25th October.

The Meeting closed at 6.15 p.m.

FATHER KEITH HODGES
CHAIRMAN
