

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

30 November 2009

Attendance:

Mr P Smith (Independent Member - Chairman) (P)

Councillors:

Barratt

Baxter (P)

Berry

Chamberlain (P)

Izard (P)

Lipscomb (P)

Nelmes

Independent Members and Parish Representatives in attendance

Mr J Barnett (Independent Member)

Ms J Collins (Independent Member)

Ms C Hicks (Independent Member)

Ms J Bond (Parish Representative)

Mr M Evans (Parish Representative)

Mr J Harris (Parish Representative)

Mr J Watson (Parish Representative)

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barratt, Berry and Nelmes.

2. **MINUTES**

With regard to a possible update of the Planning Protocol, the Corporate Director (Governance) confirmed that the matter had been considered at an informal meeting of the Planning Development Control Committee. The conclusion of the meeting was that, as the last review had been undertaken in the recent past, a further review should not be carried out at this time. However, the Planning Development Control Committee was considering possible changes to public consultation processes, which would not require any formal amendment of the Protocol and could be introduced as a practice for the future.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 28 September 2009 be approved and adopted.

3. **MONITORING OF COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS BY INDEPENDENT MEMBERS AND PARISH REPRESENTATIVES**

(Report [ST77](#) refers)

In answer to a question, the Corporate Director (Governance) explained that the phrase 'ethical framework' embraced all of the Council's Protocols and Guidelines set out in Parts 5 and 8 of the Constitution, as well as the national Code of Conduct and other statutory obligations.

It was noted that, further to comments made at the last Committee, an annual meeting between the Chairman and the Group Leaders would be arranged to discuss probity and ethical issues.

RESOLVED:

That the Independent Members and Parish Representatives undertake evaluation of committee meetings to ascertain the levels of compliance with the Code of Conduct and other guidance.

4. **JOINT STANDARDS COMMITTEES**

(Report [ST78](#) refers)

The Committee concluded that the current complaints workload was relatively light and that it was desirable for cases to be determined locally whenever possible. Therefore, the suggestion of joint working with another Council should not be pursued at this time, although it could be revisited at some stage in the future.

RESOLVED:

That Test Valley Borough Council be thanked for its interest, but no action be taken on joint standards committees at this time, for the reasons set out above and in the report.

5. **ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER – USE OF RESOURCES**

(Report [ST79](#) refers)

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.15pm and concluded at 6.45pm

Chairman