

MINUTES OF: STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 5th October 2005

**PRESENT: Councillors: Atkinson, Eaton, J Pawson, Starkey and Young
Co-Opted Members: Mr Neville**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Mark Weston Head of Legal & Democratic Service
Elaine Newsome, Committee Services Manager**

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Graham

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Resolved:

That Mr A Neville be appointed as Chair of the Standards Committee.

APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

Resolved:

That Councillor Crosta be appointed as Vice Chair of the Standards Committee.

APOLOGIES AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES

Apologies were received from Councillors Crosta (Starkey substituting), P Steen (Eaton substituting), Unsworth and Mr A Nixon.

MINUTES

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10th August 2005 be signed as a correct record.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were made at the meeting.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public in attendance at the meeting, however, Councillor Starkey asked a question on the subject of the tendering procedure. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services advised the Committee that the Council was obliged to obtain the highest possible figure for the sale of its assets, but that the issues identified in respect of the tender for the sale of

Haslingden Public Hall would be addressed and all Members would receive a response accordingly.

FOURTH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF STANDARDS COMMITTEES

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report on the recent attendance at the Standards Board conference. He identified the topics discussed at the forum and the possible requirements of the Standards Committee in light of devolved responsibility from the standards board. Councillor Graham further advised on her experience of the conference.

Resolved:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That, in light of the appointment of a co-opted Member as Chair of the standards committee, future attendance at the conference comprises of the Chair of Standards Committee, Monitoring Officer and 1 Councillor.
3. That the Monitoring Officer uses the Audit Commissions ethical diagnostic toolkit to asses the Council's ethical arrangements and brings a report back to a future meeting of this Committee in respect of these.

THE STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND CASE REVIEW NUMBER 3

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services advised the Committee of the recent publication of the Standards Board for England Case Review Number 3, and outlined the contents of the document. He advised that past practice had been to purchase 10 copies of the document for distribution to elected and co-opted Members and relevant officers.

Resolved:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the Council purchase 10 copies of the Case Review to distribute between Members.

THE STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND ANNUAL REVIEW 2004-05

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reported on content of the Annual Review document for 2004-05 published by the Standards Board for England. A copy of the document had been provided to Members for their information.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

CRIMINAL RECORDS BUREAU DISCLOSURE CHECKS FOR MEMBERS

Further to the meeting of the Standards Committee on 10th August 2005, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services submitted the draft guidance notes in respect of the Criminal Records Bureau disclosures for elected Members.

He advised that 2 further supporting documents were to be supplied in support of the guidance.

Resolved:

That the draft guidance document be noted and brought to the next meeting of the standards committee with supporting policy documents.

THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

The Chair advised the Committee of the impending departure of Mark Weston, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, due to his appointment as Director of Access, Welfare and Safety with the British Horse Society.

Members expressed their gratitude for Mr Weston's continued support and guidance throughout his term of office.

Resolved:

That the thanks of this Committee for Mr Weston's invaluable contribution to Rossendale Borough Council and the well wishes of all Members present be placed on record.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 7.25pm