

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD IN THE  
COUNCIL CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS,  
HERTFORD ON MONDAY 10 DECEMBER  
2012, AT 7.00 PM

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PRESENT:

District Council Members:

Councillors K Crofton, M Newman and  
S Rutland-Barsby

ALSO PRESENT:

Independent Persons: Philip Copland, Katherine Dumbovic,  
Hazel Howitt

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Simon Drinkwater	- Director of Neighbourhood Services
Jeff Hughes	- Head of Democratic and Legal Support Services
Maria Memoli	- Investigating Officer

488 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED – that Councillor S Rutland-Barsby be  
appointed Chairman of the Standards Committee for the  
remainder of the 2012/13 Civic Year.

489 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of  
Councillors M Carver and M Wood.

490 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed all present to the first meeting of the Standards Committee under the new code of conduct regime. She invited everyone to introduce themselves.

491 THE STANDARDS REGIME

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report on the Members' Code of Conduct complaints procedure. He also updated the Committee on the progress of implementing the new standards regime.

The Monitoring Officer reminded Members that provisions within the Localism Act 2011 had made fundamental changes to the regulatory system covering the conduct of elected and co-opted members of local authorities.

Council had previously approved a Members' code of conduct together with a complaints procedure.

The Monitoring Officer summarised the process for dealing with conduct complaints, commenting in particular on: how investigations would be conducted; action that could be taken in the event that an investigation concluded there was or was not evidence of a failure by a Member to comply with their authority's code of conduct, and action available when a subsequent hearing finds a failure to comply with a code.

Members noted the Monitoring Officer's explanation of the complaints process and also the role and functions of the "independent person".

Members supported the Monitoring Officer's suggestion that a Standards Sub-committee of 3 Members, drawn from the membership of the Standards Committee, be established (seats to be allocated in accordance with the rules of proportionality in terms of political groups' sizes) to conduct hearings. The Director of Finance and Support Services was authorised to constitute meetings of the sub-committee based

on the foregoing.

RESOLVED – that (A) a Standards Sub-Committee of 3 Members, drawn from the membership of the Standards Committee, be established (seats to be allocated in accordance with the rules of proportionality in terms of political groups’ sizes) to conduct (code of conduct) hearings,

(B) the Director of Finance and Support Services be authorised to constitute meetings of the sub-committee referred to in (A) above on the basis now detailed, and

(C) the report on the complaints process and also the role and functions of the “independent person”, be noted.

The meeting closed at 7.25 pm

Chairman .....
Date .....