

## **Minutes of the Standards Committee**

**18<sup>th</sup> May, 2009 at 1.30 pm**  
**at the Fire Service Headquarters, Birmingham**

**Present:** Mr C Topliss (Chair);  
Councillors Idrees, Ryder and Singh;  
Mr Denny.

**Apologies:** Councillors Eustace and Jones;  
Mr Bagley.

1/09

### **Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2008, be approved as a correct record.

2/09

### **Standards Board for England – Annual Return** **Good Practice – The Local Government Chronicle** **Standards and Ethics Award**

The Committee was informed that the Monitoring Officer was required to submit an annual return to the Standards Board for England (SBE) which set out the Authority's responses on a number of questions relating to the local ethical standards regime.

Two of the main purposes of the Standards Committee were to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members of the Authority; and to determine, monitor and review the arrangements for the local ethical standards regime. It was suggested that the Committee consider the Annual Returns Questions with a view to developing and implementing some of the ideas being suggested to improve the effectiveness of the local ethical standards regime.

The SBE would be collecting information from the annual returns and use this information to improve performance, for instance, disseminating good practice. The returns would also identify gaps in the local standards framework.

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This information would help the SBE to identify those authorities who could be experiencing difficulties and requiring support and advice.

The Committee considered the Annual Return Questions.

The Committee also considered information from the SBE on six local authorities that were shortlisted for the Local Government Chronicle Standards and Ethics Award which also contained examples of good practice.

The Committee identified a number of areas for potential improvement for inclusion in a work programme.

**Resolved** that the appropriate officers be asked to implement the actions identified in the attached Appendix in order to improve the effectiveness of the local ethical standards regime, and that reports on progress on these issues be reported to the Committee from time to time.

### **3/09      Case Summaries**

The Committee noted important cases published by the Standards Board for England as part of its on-going learning for the locally-based standards regime.

### **4/09      Date of next meeting**

On a date to be confirmed in early September, 2009.

(The meeting ended at 2.25 pm)

Contact Officer: Georgina Wythes Democratic Services Unit Sandwell MBC 0121 569 3791
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