

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

11 JUNE 2010

Present :- Mr D. Coe (Independent Member) Chairman
Mr Andrews (Independent Member)
Councillor Bartier
Councillor Chapman
Councillor Chuah
Councillor Eden
Mr Farmer (Independent Member)
Mr Fitton (Independent Member)
Mr Roberts-Mee (Independent Member)
Councillor Sutton

1. Election of Chairman

RESOLVED that Derek Coe be appointed Chairman for the ensuing Municipal Year.

2. Election of Deputy Chairman

RESOLVED that Peter Fitton be appointed Deputy Chairman for the ensuing Municipal Year.

3. Urgent Items

The Monitoring Officer reported that the new Coalition Government had indicated its intention to abolish the Standards for England "regime". What this would mean in practice was unclear at this stage and it was anticipated that a Code of Conduct and local Standards Committee would remain in place. In the meantime, Standards for England had made clear that the local assessment process would continue to operate.

4. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2010 were confirmed as a correct record.

5. Review of Local Standards Framework

The Committee considered a report by the Monitoring Officer about the review by Standards for England of the local standards framework entitled "Local Standards 2.0 - the Proportionality Upgrade". The Committee noted that there was evidence that the local assessment process was working well, but with scope for improvements. The Committee noted the recommendations that were proposed by Standards for England and considered that in general these were sensible, common sense recommendations that would improve the local assessment process and should be considered in any reform of the standards framework. In particular recommendations 10 (that the

monitoring officer be able to recommend to the Standards Committee , at any stage and for any reason, that an investigation be stopped) and 12 (that decision notices be published on the Council's website rather than in the local press) were welcomed.

RESOLVED that the review by Standards for England of the local standards framework be noted.

6. Appointment of Sub-Committees

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Corporate Management about the membership of the Allegations Sub-Committee, Allegations Appeals Sub-Committee and Hearings Sub-Committee for the 2010-11 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED that the membership of the Standards Committee sub-committee for the 2010-11 municipal year be as follows:-

Allegations Sub-Committee

Derek Coe (Independent Member) (Chairman)
Vivienne Eden (Parish Councillor)
Ray Gamble (Borough Councillor)
Terry Sutton (Borough Councillor)

Allegations Appeals Sub-Committee

Steve Roberts-Mee (Independent Member) (Chairman)
Malcolm Bartier (Parish Councillor)
Helen Chuah (Borough Councillor)

Hearings Sub-Committee

Ian Andrews (Independent Member) (Chairman)
Terence Abnett (Parish Councillor)
Nigel Chapman (Borough Councillor)
Sven Farmer (Independent Member)
Peter Fitton (Independent Member)

7. Corporate Governance

The Committee received a presentation from Andrew Weavars, Monitoring Officer, and Hayley McGrath, Risk and Resilience Manager. The presentation explained the definition of corporate governance, how the principles of good corporate governance were applied within Colchester Borough Council, the role of the Standards Committee in ensuring good corporate governance and the consequences and examples of poor corporate governance.

RESOLVED that the contents of the presentation on Corporate governance be noted.