

Council Meeting

19 February 2008

Booklet 1

Recommendation Minutes

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

6th February, 2008

Members Present:- City Council Members

Councillor N. Lee
Councillor A. Williams

Independent Members

M. Farrell
B. Farrer (Chair)
D. Jackson
B. Ray
J. Willetts (Deputy Chair)

Employees Present:- H. Abraham (Head of Democratic Services)
S. Bennett (Customer and Workforce Services Directorate)
A. Burton (Acting Monitoring Officer)

Apologies:- Councillor K. Mulhall and B. Shakespeare

RECOMMENDATION

30. Membership of the Standards Committee

The Committee gave consideration to the future membership of the Standards Committee in light of Alice Casey's resignation in December 2007 and Brian Farrer's indication that he would be retiring at the end of the current Municipal Year. The Committee gave guidance on the recruitment process to be followed to enable these two vacancies to be filled at the Annual Meeting of the City Council on 15th May, 2008.

The Committee discussed the possibility of increasing the number of Independent Members on the Committee in light of their concerns regarding the possible effect that the Orders and Regulations relating to the conduct of local authority Members may have on the workload of the Committee. The concerns particularly related to the possible need to convene three separate Sub-Committees to consider each allegation, the membership of which would need to be different each time, and which may need to be convened within extremely tight deadlines.

The practicalities of the new arrangements were considered and the Committee asked the Acting Monitoring Officer to investigate whether there were legal alternatives available to the Committee to avoid the

need to physically convene a face to face meeting for the first stage of assessment of an investigation application.

Consideration was also given to the current allowance paid to co-opted Members in light of the anticipated increase in workload and the Committee requested that the issue of paying an additional allowance for attendance at the Sub-Committees be referred to the Independent Remuneration Panel for consideration.

RECOMMENDED that the City Council increase the number of Independent Members on the Standards Committee from 7 (including a Parish Councillor) to 9 (including a Parish Councillor) from the start of the Municipal Year 2008/09.