

# BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

## STANDARDS COMMITTEE

5.00PM – 18 MARCH 2008

### HOVE TOWN HALL

#### MINUTES

Present: Councillor Drake (Deputy Chairman); Councillors Carden, Kennedy, Lepper (OS), Simson and Watkins.

Independent Members: Dr M B Wilkinson (Chairman), Ms M Carter and Mrs H Scott.

Rottingdean Parish Council Representative: Mr G Rhodes

Apologies were received from Mr J van Vuuren of Rottingdean Parish Council.

#### PART ONE

#### ACTION

#### 49. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

##### 49A. Declarations of Substitutes

49.1 There were none.

##### 49B. Declarations of Interest

49.2 There were none.

##### 49C. Exclusion of Press and Public

49.3 The Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any items contained in the agenda, having regard to the nature of the business to be transacted and the nature of the proceedings and the likelihood as to whether, if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of confidential or exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A, Part 5A, Section 100A(4) or 100 1 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

49.4 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

**50. MINUTES**

- 50.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**51. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS****Letter to All Members of the Council**

- 51.1 The Chairman explained that he had, as agreed sent a letter to all Members' of The Council and its voting Co-optees explaining the effect of the changes made to the Code of Conduct in relation to equalities. This had been considered timely in view of issues which had been highlighted at a Hearing Panel meeting.

**Additional Members**

- 51.2 The Chairman explained the facility to appoint additional Committee Members had been agreed at the meeting of the council held on 13 March 2008.

**New Democratic Arrangements : Post May 2008**

- 51.3 The Chairman explained that the role of the Standards Committee would continue post May 2008 when the Council's new democratic arrangements came into force. Its profile and workload could change however once the requirements of the new legislation which was in train came into force. He thanked all Members of the Committee for their contribution to its work and expressed his hope that many of them would be re-appointed for the 2008 / 09 municipal year.

**Special Meeting of the Committee**

- 51.4 The Chairman stated that although this was the Committees' last scheduled meeting until June 2008, in the event that the awaited legislation came into force sooner than anticipated, it might be necessary to hold a special meeting in order to agree assessment arrangements.

**Training**

- 51.5 The Chairman confirmed that at the conclusion of the formal meeting of the Committee there would be a training session for all Members of the Committee in relation to the assessment of complaints.

**52. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

- 52.1 There were none.

**53. TO AGREE ATTENDANCE OF DELEGATES AT THE STANDARDS BOARDS SEVENTH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF STANDARDS COMMITTEES**

53.1 **RESOLVED:** - That three places be booked at the Standards Boards Seventh Annual Assembly of Standards Committees between 13 - 14 October 2008 at the ICC in Birmingham. Delegates as follows :

Dr M B Wilkinson , Chairman;

Mr B Foley, Standards and Complaints Officer ; and

One further place, attendees name to be confirmed.

**54. REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH BILL**

54.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Strategy & Governance concerning the second report of the Working Group on the implementation of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill (for copy see minute book).

54.2 **RESOLVED** – (1) that the commencement information set out in Appendix 2 and the response sent to Government in relation to the consultation paper issues on 3 January 2008 set out in Appendix 3 , be noted ; and

(2) That further report(s) of the Working Group be received in due course.

**55. ITEMS TO GO FORWARD TO COUNCIL**

55.1 **RESOLVED** - that the following item considered at the meeting of the Committee held on 8 January 2008 go forward to the meeting of the Council scheduled to take place on 24 April 2008  
:

Item 44 - Revision of the Local Code of Conduct for Members

**Note** : It was noted that the relevant Appendix to the report which would be forwarded to the council had been amended slightly in order to correct some minor inconsistencies in the proposed new Code of Conduct which had been noticed since its original preparation. There were no changes to the recommendations.

The meeting concluded at 5.15 pm

Signed

Chairman

Dated this

day of

2008