

## STANDARDS COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 20 JUNE 2012

### DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Standards Committee held on Wednesday, 20 June 2012. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Maggie Jennings.

- 1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE 2012/13**  
It was unanimously **AGREED** that Kathy English be elected Chairman of the Standards Committee 2012/13 until such time as the new regulations have been adopted by Council.
- 2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE 2012/13**  
It was unanimously **AGREED** that Alan Hampton be elected Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee 2012/13 until such time as the new regulations have been adopted by Council.
- 3. FUTURE OF STANDARDS (LOCALISM ACT 2011)**  
The Standards Committee
  - (i) Noted the content of the regulations concerning disclosable pecuniary interests, associated transitional arrangements and covering letter issued by the DCLG,
  - (ii) Recommended to Full Council that Council Standing Orders be amended to state that Members with a disclosable pecuniary interest should make the nature of that interest known when such a matter arises at a meeting even where that interest has been included in the register of interests,
  - (iii) Recommended to Full Council that Council Standing Orders should be amended to include a provision which requires a Member to withdraw from the room where he or she has a disclosable non-pecuniary interest in a matter provided that the member concerned was able to first make representations, answer questions or give evidence in relation to that interest or time of business before withdrawing,
  - (iv) Recommended to full Council as amended at the meeting, the procedural flowchart for the handling of complaints, and
  - (v) Noted the contents of the recruitment pack for the appointment of an Independent Person, subject to the amendments made at the meeting
- 4. CODE OF CONDUCT 2012**  
It was unanimously **RECOMMENDED** to full Council that the Code of Conduct of Cambridgeshire Local Authorities be adopted.
- 5. PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF CIVIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
On the proposal of Cllr Cicely Murfitt and seconded by James Williams, it was **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council that a separate Standards Committee be retained with the appointment of Parish Members, noting that co-opted members have no voting rights.

Cllr Roger Hall and Eric Revell abstained from voting.

**6. STANDARDS COMMITTEE 2011-12 BUDGET**

The Standards Committee **NOTED** the Standards Committee 2011/12 budget, subject to the amendments made at the meeting.

**7. UPDATE FROM ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW PANELS**

The Standards Committee **NOTED** the update relating to Assessment and Review Panels and that there had been an additional assessment panel held on 10 May 2012.

**8. LOCAL INVESTIGATIONS AND HEARINGS**

The Standards Committee **NOTED** the information provided in the agenda and that district councillors were only identified to the Committee when a breach of the code of conduct had been found.

**9. OPERATION OF CODE OF CONDUCT AND OTHER STATUTORY FUNCTIONS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

The Standards Committee **NOTED** that the Monitoring Officer had appointed Gary Duthie, Senior Lawyer, as Deputy Monitoring Officer under the provisions of Section 5 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 (as amended).