

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**9 January 2008  
(6.00pm – 6.45pm)

**PRESENT:** Councillors Ellis-Miller, McPherson, Pitt, J Rosenstiel, Taylor  
(Chair).  
External Member: Dr Clark  
Also present – External Members (alternate) Mr Williams, Mr Barrett

**FOR INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL****08/s/1 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2007 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**08/s/2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Walker and External Member Mr Dasgupta.

**08/s/3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**08/s/4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No members of the public were present.

**08/s/5 LOCAL ASSESSMENT BY STANDARDS COMMITTEES –  
IMPLICATIONS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC  
INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007**

The Head of Legal Services introduced the report, which was a discussion paper on the implications of the requirement from 1 April for local assessment of complaints. The Committee noted that the Department for Communities and Local Government had issued a consultation paper (3 January) on the proposed Orders and Regulations which would implement the new local based ethical regime.

Officers would circulate the weblink to the consultation and collate the Committee's comments for a formal response if warranted. The Committee made a number of points with regard to the report, but was concerned to await the detail of the Regulations and any guidance from the Standards Board prior to taking any decisions. It was noted that the Regulations were unlikely to be published in time for the Committee to consider the matter at its meeting scheduled for 5 March and this would need to be re-arranged.

The officer report asked for the committee's initial view in a number of areas and the Committee had the following views:

- 1) Size of Committee – the need for more than two External Members of the Committee would require a decision by the Council.
- 2) Independent Chair and Vice Chair – the Committee initially could appoint and then agreed at the Annual Council Meeting. Cllr Rosenstiel requested that there should be a process for how an independent Chair/Vice Chair is to be selected/nominated e.g. were there to be more than one candidate.
- 3) Could the Councillors on the various sub-committees required come from the full Council rather than the Standards Committee alone to minimise the risks of conflict, holiday and illness?
- 4) A comprehensive training programme would be required.
- 5) Joint arrangements (with other authorities/committees) should be kept under review as there could be benefits (e.g. training, advertising for independent members).
- 6) Report back on how it is proposed to investigate complaints and the costs associated with this.
- 7) Review the Council's current procedure for local hearing a complaint.

The meeting closed at 6.45pm.

**Chair**