

REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE PILOT MODEL COMPACT WORKING GROUP ("the Group") held in Committee Room 3, Municipal Buildings, Earle Street Crewe on Tuesday 4th August 2009 at 10.00 a.m

Present: David Sayer (Chair for the Meeting), Nigel Briers, Ken Edwards, Teresa Eatough and John Goddard

Introduction

The chairman reported that he had been in contact with Jackie Weaver (JW) Chief Executive Officer (ChALC) who was unable to attend today's meeting but who would be available later in the month. Accordingly it was agreed that the next meeting of the Group would be held on Thursday 27th August 2009 at 10.30 am at the Municipal Buildings, Earle Street, Crewe when JW would be invited to attend.

Budgetary Issues

Nigel Briers reported that he had received an email from the Monitoring Officer indicating that he (Monitoring Officer) is to meet with the Council Leader and Chief Executive Officer this afternoon (4/8/09) for the purpose of discussing the resource and budgetary implications of any proposed compact implemented along the lines already discussed. Nigel Briers agreed to report back when he had further information.

The Group then discussed the role of ChALC with particular reference to questions of training and costings. Teresa Eatough helpfully outlined the position presently obtaining with respect to training and related costs within the West Basford Parish Council whom she represents within the Standards Committee. It was generally agreed that it would be constructive for questions to be raised with JW at the next Group meeting on the 27th August 2009 and the Chairman undertook to provide JW with advance notice of questions relative to costings in time for such meeting.

Cheshire West

Nigel Briers reported that he had been in contact with John McGarva (Chair Standards – Cheshire West) and that a meeting the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Cheshire East and West respectively would take place on Friday 4th September 2009 at Crewe at 10.30 a.m.

It was explained that the principal purpose of this meeting would be to explore ways and means of working in tandem and furtherance of the principles propounded in the Pilot Compact

[The Group at this point expressed a wish to be kept informed of developments as information becomes available - the Chairman undertook to ensure that members were kept up to date]

Terms of Reference

The Working Group's Terms of Reference and Objectives were endorsed as set out in the Resolution to Item 53 in the Minutes of the Meeting of the full Standards Committee held on the 13th July 2009.

Pilot Compact

The Chairman reported that he had spoken with Anne Rehill (Advice and Guidance Manager) (AR) from Standards Board for England (SBE) who had been present at the full Committee meeting on the 13th July 2009. AR had expressed support for the Working Group and its terms of reference. AR had also pointed out that the original Pilot Compact was now complete and in the process of evaluation by SBE who would report to the Annual Conference in October 2009. The Pilot Compact would continue in the meantime as a work of guidance and reference for those involved in similar schemes.

Lines of Communication

The Group on an issue raised by John Goddard expressed concern that, while the present discussion centred largely on parish councils, it is important to maintain lines of communication with elected councillors, town councils, parish meetings and members of the Standards Committee. Ken Edwards reminded the Group that the suggested Parish Conference and ChALC Annual Meeting were occasions which could usefully be engaged in the communications process and further, in this context, the forthcoming meeting with Cheshire West would hopefully generate exchange of ideas and suggestions for improved communication.

The Meeting concluded at 11.30 a.m.

4th August 2009