

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Standards Committee**
held on Monday, 24th May, 2010 in Committee Suite 1, 2 and 3, Westfields,
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Mr N Briers (Chairman)
Mr D Sayer (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors Rhoda Bailey, B H Dykes, J Goddard, J A Hammond, M A Hollins,
M Parsons and L Smetham

Independent Members:

Mr I Clark and Mr R Pomlett.

Parish Council Representatives:

Mrs P Barnett, Mrs T Eatough and Mr K Edwards

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chris Chapman	Monitoring Officer
Paul Jones	Democratic Services Team Leader
Carol Jones	Democratic Services Officer

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

2 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

In accordance with Procedure Rules Nos. 11 and 35, a total period of 10 minutes was allocated for members of the public to address the Committee on any matter relevant to its work.

There were no members of the public present and the Committee, therefore, proceeded to its next business.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 29th March 2010 be approved as a correct record, subject to the following amendment –

Minute No. 99 – Bribery Bill –

Third paragraph, line 5 – delete “improver”
Insert “improper”

4 WORK PROGRAMME - 2010-2011

The Committee considered the report of the Monitoring Officer which invited Members to agree a work programme for 2010-2011.

RESOLVED:

That the Work Programme set out in the appendix to the report be adopted, together with the inclusion of the following item –

- Development of a protocol on use of ICT equipment by elected Members.

5 PARTNERSHIPS PROTOCOL

Standards for England had worked with Manchester City Council to develop a protocol for values and behaviours for use within partnerships. This had been reported to the Standards Committee on 23rd November 2009, at which time, a Member/Officer Working Group had been established with the aim of developing a Partnerships Protocol for use within Cheshire East.

The Working Group had revised the draft Protocol issued by Standards for England and had submitted the revision to the Local Strategic Partnership Executive meeting held on 12th April 2010 for comment. The Executive considered that it required additional time to consider its impact on statutory services such as Children and Adult Services as well as Safer Communities in terms of access to confidential material.

A further meeting of the Executive (held on 17th May 2010) would reconsider the document, following which, if appropriate, a further meeting of the Working Group would be convened. A report on progress would be submitted to the July meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee receive the report and endorse the progress made.

6 TRAINING FOR MEMBERS

The Committee considered the report of the Monitoring Officer which invited Members to identify training needs to promote the ethical framework.

The following were suggested for inclusion, as appropriate, during the course of the year –

- Chairmen's training in respect of the process/procedures for Assessment/Review Sub-Committee and Hearings Sub-Committee

- Overall basic planning training (probity in planning) for the Independent and Parish Council representatives of the Committee

It was noted that an invitation would be extended to the Independent/ Members/Parish representatives of the Committee to attend any of the more detailed planning training sessions arranged for Cheshire East Councillors.

It was noted that at the conclusion of the meeting, Members of the Committee would be able to view the DVD "Assessment Made Clear".

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report be noted; and
- (b) That training events be organised as appropriate throughout the year.

7 WORKING GROUP REPORT

The Committee received for information the Vice-Chairman's report of a meeting of the "Issues and Improvements" Working Party held on 11th May 2010.

RESOLVED:

That the report of the "Issues and Improvements" Working Party be noted.

8 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED:

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item, pursuant to Section 100(A)4 of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 2 and 10 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and the public interest would not be served in publishing this information.

9 COMPLAINTS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT

The Committee received a report about a complaint made against a serving Cheshire East Councillor.

The complaint had been considered by an Assessment Sub-Committee on 24th March 2010, at which time the matter had been referred to the Monitoring Officer for action other than an investigation.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 2.30 pm

Mr Nigel Briers (Chairman)