

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

**MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, BOOTLE
ON THURSDAY 22ND JANUARY, 2009**

PRESENT: Councillors Brady, Fairclough, M Fearn, Hill and
Papworth

Independent Members Mr. E. Davies (Vice-Chair, in the Chair) and
Mr. J. Fraser

Parish Councillor Mr. D. Warren

21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. N. Edwards (Chair) and
Councillor Storey.

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were received:-

Councillor Hill	25 - Members Allowances	Prejudicial - He is a Chair of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the report refers to proposed changes to the level of remuneration for that post.	Left the room and took no part in the consideration of the item.
Councillor Papworth	25 - Members Allowances	Prejudicial - He is a Chair of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the report refers to proposed changes to the level of remuneration for that post.	Left the room and took no part in the consideration of the item.
Councillor Brady	25 - Members Allowances	Personal - He is the Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee which is referred to in the report.	Took part in the consideration of the item and voted thereon.

23. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20 November 2008 be confirmed as a correct record.

24. ELECTED MEMBER AND OFFICER MEDIA PROTOCOL

Further to Minute No. 11 of the Committee meeting held on 2 October 2008, the Committee considered the report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Communications) on a draft protocol to assist Members to deal with queries from the media, which had been produced following consultation with the three Group Leaders.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the draft protocol be revised to provide clear guidance for Members in bullet point format on the following issues:
 - Who could say what and when?
 - What information on green paper is confidential?
 - When does it become public?
 - Who is allowed to comment on green paper items and in what context?
 - Commenting during call-in periods
 - Portfolio consultation
- (2) that the revised protocol be submitted to the three political groups and the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for comments before submission to the next meeting of this Committee, the Cabinet and then Council for approval.

25. MEMBER ALLOWANCES - INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

The Committee considered the report of the Legal Director which incorporated a copy of the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the review of the Members Allowance Scheme. The views of the Committee were sought on the recommendations of the Panel prior to the submission of the report to Council for consideration.

A Member of the Committee referred to the decision taken by the Cabinet at its meeting on 2 October 2008 (Minute No. 128 refers) with regard to Members Travel outside of the Borough being included within the scope of the Corporate Travel Policy and requested that the report be deferred for consideration at a future meeting to enable the Independent Remuneration Panel to review the Members Travel and Subsistence Scheme.

RESOLVED:

That the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel be deferred to enable the views of the three Political Groups to be sought on the Members Travel and Subsistence Scheme and a report thereon being submitted to the Independent Remuneration Panel for consideration.