

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

**MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, SOUTHPORT
ON 25 MARCH 2010**

PRESENT: Councillor Mr. N. Edwards (in the Chair)
Councillor Mr. E. Davies (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Bigley, Brady, M Fearn, Papworth and
Mr. J. Fraser

41. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fairclough and Hill and Parish Councillors Mrs. O'Brien and Warren.

42. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

43. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2010 be confirmed as a correct record.

44. CASE SUMMARIES - RECENT INVESTIGATIONS

The Committee considered the report of the Legal Director which incorporated copies of three case summaries published by Standards for England following recent investigations by Ethical Standards Officers.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the case summaries be published on the Members' Portal and Members of the Council be sent an email link.

**45. BIAS AND PREDETERMINATION – REFERRAL FROM
MERSEYTRAVEL**

The Committee considered the report of the Legal Director which provided details of the advice provided by Standards for England to the Merseyside Integrated Transport Authority relating to Bias and Predetermination and circulated to monitoring officers in Merseyside for information.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the advice note be published on the Members' Portal and Members of the Council be sent an email link.

46. ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF STANDARDS COMMITTEES

The Chair reported that the Ninth Annual Assembly of Standards Committees would be held in Birmingham on 18 to 19 October 2010.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the Chief Executive be requested to authorise the attendance of the Head of Corporate Legal Services and Monitoring Officer at the Annual Assembly.

47. MEMBERS INDUCTION PROGRAMME 2010

The Chair reported that a session on the Members Code of Conduct and the Standards regime would be included in the Members' Induction Programme for 2010 and that he would be attending the session.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

48. MONITORING OFFICER

The Chair reported that Caroline Elwood, Legal Director and Monitoring Officer would be taking early retirement on 31 March 2010.

He also reported that Mr. D. Mackey, Interim Head of Corporate Legal Services and Ms. A. Grant, Assistant Director (Democratic Services) had been appointed by the Council as the Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer respectively.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the sincere appreciation of the Committee be conveyed to Mrs. Elwood, Legal Director for all of the support and guidance she has given to the Committee together with best wishes for the future.