

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

**MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, SOUTHPORT
ON 29 NOVEMBER 2011**

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

Councillors Byrom, M. Fearn, Hill, Papworth and
Veidman, Town Councillor S. Kermode and
Parish Councillor D. Warren

6. WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The Chair welcomed Councillor Veidman and Town Councillor S. Kermode to their first meeting of the Committee.

7. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Fairclough and Independent Member Mr. J. Fraser.

8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

9. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2011 be confirmed as a correct record.

10. LOCALISM BILL AND MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT UPDATE

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Corporate Legal Services which provided an update on the key provisions of the Localism Bill in so far as they relate to the Standards Regime. The report also contained the following appendices.

- Appendix A - Current clauses in the Localism Bill relating to the Standards regime;
- Appendix B - Sefton Council's current Code of Conduct; and
- Appendix C - Proposed Model Code of Conduct produced by the Association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors

The Head of Corporate Legal Services reported that Appendix A did not contain the relevant clauses of the Localism Bill and had been circulated in

error but the Localism Act had received Royal Assent on 15 November 2011 and the relevant provisions relating to the Standards Regime would be circulated to the Members of the Committee for consideration prior to the next meeting of the Committee. She sought the views of the Committee on the principle of a Pan-Merseyside Code of Conduct been adopted to cover the Borough, Parish and Town Councils and the Joint Authorities to enable her to submit a report to the Party Group Leaders on the proposal.

RESOLVED: That:

- (1) the report be noted and circulated to Members of the Council and the Clerks of the Parish/Town Councils in Sefton for information;
- (2) the Committee supports the principle of a Pan-Merseyside Code of Conduct been adopted but would wish, at the present time, to retain local administration of the Standards regime; and
- (3) the Head of Corporate Legal Services submit a further report on the provisions in the Localism Act 2011 relating to the Standards regime, to the next meeting for consideration.