



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE held on 10 September 2008 at Fire Service Headquarters, Winsford**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs B Jones, D Freear, M Biggin, H Mundry and S Mosley.

**INDEPENDENT MEMBERS:** Mr W Ravenscroft (in the Chair)

**APOLOGIES:** Mr R Garner

**1 PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

**CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair welcomed Cllr Stephen Mosley to the Standards Committee.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 9 July 2008 be confirmed as a correct record.

**2 THE STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND – ANNUAL REVIEW 2007-08**

The Corporate and Democratic Support Manager presented a report on the Standards Board for England which had published its Annual Review for 2007-08. The Review, which was attached as an Annex, presented an overview of the activities of the Board over the preceding twelve month period and outlined the impact of the changes to the Members' Code of Conduct.

Members were reminded that the significant changes made to the Code of Conduct, principally the shift in relation to ownership of investigations from the national to the local level and the expected impact on the work and structure of local committees, as previously discussed by this Committee. Members were also asked to note the changes to some senior roles notably Dr Robert Chilton's appointment as Chair and Glenys Stacey's appointment as the new Chief Executive.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Annual Review be noted and the issues raised by the Board be considered.

### **3 2007 – THE REVISED CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE – SUMMARY PROGRESS REPORT**

The Head of Finance and Governance presented a report, which set out progress against the Core Principles 4-6 of the Corporate Governance Action Plan. Members noted Principles 1-3 would be presented at the next meeting of the Standards Committee on 19 November 2008.

The report provided a summary of progress of identified actions, following the adoption of the revised code of Corporate Governance 2007. The format for providing the information was agreed by Members of the Standards Committee at their meeting on 23 January 2008.

Members noted with progress made to date and raised a number of issues, particularly with regard to Member training, both of existing Fire Authority Members and the new Shadow Fire Authority Members. Members were informed that Corporate Support was currently providing a programme of Member development along with the Cheshire and Warrington Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (CWIEP). The Members noted that funding for CWIEP had been made available from the Government Office North West (GONW) for training and development use.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That Members note progress on themes 4 - 6 of the Code of Corporate Governance

### **4 URGENT BUSINESS AND EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

#### **(1) Urgent Business**

#### **RESOLVED:**

There were no items considered under urgent business.

#### **(2) Exclusion of the Press and Public**

#### **RESOLVED:**

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Order 2006, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the items of business listed below on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12 A to the Act in the paragraphs indicated:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Paragraph</b>
Consideration of Applications for Additional Independent Members	(1) Information relating to an Individual

**6 CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL INDEPENDENT MEMBERS**

The Corporate and Democratic Support Manager reminded Members of their resolution to recruit a number of additional Independent Members, to fulfil the Authority's obligations under the revised Member Code of Conduct, agreed at the meeting of the Committee on 2 April 2008. The purpose of this report was to present Members with details of the applications received.

The Corporate and Democratic Support Manager presented three applications to the Members, who agreed that two candidates were suitable and would be invited for interview. The interview panel would include the Chair, 2 Committee Members and relevant officers.

**RESOLVED:**

That the applications for additional Independent Members be considered and successful candidates be invited for interview.

Signed.....

Date.....