



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE held on 18 March 2009 at Fire Service Headquarters, Winsford at 10.00 am

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

INDEPENDENT MEMBERS: Mr W Ravenscroft (in the Chair), Mr R Garner and Mr D Morris

SHADOW MEMBERS: Cllrs C Thorley and G Smith

1 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 18 March 2009 be confirmed as a correct record;

2 2007 – THE REVISED CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE – SUMMARY PROGRESS REPORT – THEMES 1-3

The Corporate Support Manager presented a report, prepared by the Head of Finance and Governance, which set out progress against Core Principles 1-3 of the Corporate Governance Action Plan.

The report provided a summary of progress against identified actions, following the adoption of the revised code of Corporate Governance 2007. Members noted progress made to date and raised a number of issues in respect of the information provided.

In respect of partnership working Members queried the source of the data for the Partnership database development and also requested that the newly appointed Innovations and Partnerships Manager be invited to attend a future meeting of the Standards Committee to brief Members on the role. It was suggested that a report on partnership working in relation to the requirements of the local Code of Corporate Governance be submitted to the next meeting.

Members discussed the issues in respect of Elected Member training and the proposal to develop job descriptions for Members and move towards attaining the North West Employers Charter for Elected Member Development. Members noted that a report on the Member induction and training programme for 2009/10 would be submitted to the Cheshire Fire Authority meeting on 3rd April 2009 and Members asked for assurances that a commitment to reform the Member Development Working Group would be agreed.

RESOLVED:

- [1] That progress against themes 1 – 3 of the Code of Corporate Governance be noted; and
- [2] That a report be submitted to the Standards Committee meeting scheduled for 1 July 2009 to provide details of the re-constituted Member Development Working Group and an agreed programme of meetings for 2009/10.

3 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:

Item		Paragraph
Member Attendance Summary April 2008 to March 2009	(1)	Information relating to an Individual

4 MEMBER ATTENDANCE SUMMARY – APRIL 2008 TO MARCH 2009

The Corporate Support Manager presented a report which provided a summary of Member Attendance from April 2008 to March 2009, which covered all meetings of the Authority, from the April meeting in 2008 to date. This report would normally be presented to Members in April but the re-organisation of councils in Cheshire (LGR) has meant that this was the last opportunity for the Committee to formally review the annual attendance of the current Authority.

Members reviewed the summary of attendances and noted its content. Members expressed the view that as this was the last meeting of the Committee in its current form and that generally there had been reasonable attendance throughout the year that no further action be taken.

RESOLVED: That

- [1] The summary of Member attendance at meetings of the Authority and its three main Committees for the year 2008/09 be noted; and
- [2] No further action be taken.