

Time Commenced – 10.09am  
Time Finished – 12.00pm

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
9 NOVEMBER 2009**

**Present:** Reverend Canon R B Blowers – Chair  
Mrs C McDowall, Mr P Sunderland, Ms D Reid  
Councillors Hird, Holmes and Jackson

**Officers in Attendance:** Michael Foote – Monitoring Officer  
Steve Dunning – Assistant Director, Democratic  
Services

**25/09 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies.

**26/09 Late Items Introduced by the Chair**

There were no late items.

**27/09 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations.

**28/09 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair. It was noted that the minutes from the hearing held on 6 October 2009 would need to be confirmed at the next meeting.

**29/09 Assessment Made Clear - DVD**

Members watched a DVD produced by Standards for England, providing guidance on procedures to be followed at Standards Assessment Sub Committees and options available for consideration by members.

**Resolved to note the guidance.**

**30/09 Feedback from Conference**

The meeting heard feedback from Ms Reid who had attended the Annual Standards for England conference. A discussion followed focusing on work that could be done to publicise the work that the Committee undertakes.

**Resolved that the Committee should henceforward produce an Annual Report on its work for consideration by Full Council at the first meeting following the Annual Meeting.**

### 31/09 Proposed changes to Members' Complaints Procedure

The Committee considered a report from the Monitoring Officer recommending two amendments to the Members' Complaints Procedure. The first amendment clarified the procedure to be followed at Consideration Meetings of the Standards Committee. The second amendment clarified the position regarding the withdrawal of complaints after they had been considered by the Assessment Sub Committee.

**Resolved to approve the proposed amendments in the Members' Complaints Procedure, as detailed in the report.**

### 32/09 Exclusion of press and public

**Resolved to exclude the press and public during consideration of the subsequent items under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.**

### 33/09 Summary of member complaints received in 2009

The Committee considered a report from the Monitoring Officer summarising progress with member complaints received in 2009.

**Resolved to note the report.**

### 34/09 Request to withdraw complaint 13/2009

The Committee considered a report from the Monitoring Officer detailing a request to withdraw complaint 13/2009.

**Resolved to proceed with the complaint but instruct the investigating officer to make anonymous the complainant in the report to be brought back to the Committee.**

### 35/09 Investigation report into the conduct of a Derby City Councillor

The Committee considered a report from the Monitoring Officer relating to complaints 05/2009, 06/2009, 07/2009, 08/2009 and 09/2009.

**Resolved to proceed with the complaints to a hearing of the Standards Committee.**

NOTES END

Chair of the next ensuing meeting  
at which these minutes were signed