

Medway Council
STANDARDS COMMITTEE

1 December 2009

7:00 pm to 8:40 pm

RECORD OF THE MEETING

PRESENT:

Committee members: Councillor Coomber (Parish Council representative)
Michael Coulson (Independent Member)
Anthony Dance (Independent Member)
Andy Povey (Independent Member)
Councillors O'Brien, Shaw and Smith

In attendance: Peter Holland (Committee Co-ordinator)
Deborah Upton (Head of Housing and Legal Services)

435 RECORD OF THE MEETING

The record of the meeting held on 12 August 2009 was signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to Janet Grey being added to the Members present at the meeting.

436 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillors Buckwell and Marsh, Janet Grey and Sue Jenkins.

437 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER OF THE INDEPENDENT GROUP ONTO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Discussion:

The Monitoring Officer introduced a report that asked the Committee to consider extending the membership of the Committee to include a Member of the Independent Group, in order that each of the four political groups have one Member on the Standards Committee.

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Decision:

The Committee recommended to Full Council that they consider extending the Membership of the Committee to include four Medway Council representatives in order that each of the four political groups have a Member on the Standards Committee following the creation of a new Independent Group comprising three Members of the Council and a by-election in Luton and Wayfield ward on 3 September 2009.

Members also asked that the Monitoring Officer proceed with the recruitment of new Independent Members of the Committee as soon as possible.

438 FEEDBACK FROM MEETING BETWEEN GROUP LEADERS AND INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Discussion:

The Committee was informed that Independent Members of the Standards Committee had met with Group Leaders on 3 November 2009.

Independent Members stated that they were pleased that the meeting had taken place but stated that in future it would be better if a specific agenda be drawn up for these meetings.

Members stated that it would be a good idea for Independent Members to attend other meetings apart from Full Council, for example overview and scrutiny committees and the Development Control Committee, as these would give Independent Members a more rounded view of Member conduct in general.

Decision:

Members asked the Committee Co-ordinator to email Independent Members of the Committee a link to the Council's website that details the complete Medway Council's meeting schedule for this municipal year.

439 ASSESSMENT MADE CLEAR - STANDARDS FOR ENGLAND DVD

Discussion:

Members were shown a DVD titled "Assessments made Clear" from Standards for England.

Decision:

Members noted the contents of the report.

Chairman

Date

Peter Holland

Committee Co-ordinator

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