

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 2009 IN THE POLICE AUTHORITY CONFERENCE ROOM, CONSTABULARY HEADQUARTERS, WINSFORD

Present: H Waller (Chairman) B Maher
D Cargill H Mawdsley
E Lam T Savage

Authority Officer:
D Taylor, Deputy Chief Executive

Apology for absence: D Willetts

8. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 August 2009 be confirmed as a correct record.

9. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REPORT

The Deputy Chief Executive presented the report on governance issues, which included the annual review of the register of interests and declaration of hospitality; proposals for a standards training session with Authority members to which lay members were invited; a summary of the key issues arising from the Standards for England annual review for 2008/09; and the proposals for the Standards Committee's annual report for 2009 to be published on the Authority's website.

Members noted the report, reviewed the register of Members' interests and indicated their support for lay members' attendance at the Authority standards training session. The Deputy Chief Executive reported that a draft of the Committee's annual report would be prepared and circulated to the Committee for its comments.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) lay members be invited to take part in the Authority standards training session on 26 April 2010; and
- (3) a draft of the Committee's annual report for 2009 be circulated to Members for comment.

10. COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

The Deputy Chief Executive set out the proposed workplan for the Committee in 2010, reflecting on the enhanced role of the Committee. It was proposed that the Committee would meet twice during 2010, unless otherwise required, and that the workplan had been designed to ensure that the additional roles of the Committee would be appropriately addressed.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the workplan for 2010, be agreed; and
- (2) the Committee meet in 2010 on Thursday 17 June and Thursday 2 December, both starting at 9.30am.

11. REVIEW OF POLICIES

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a number of the Authority's policies for review by the Committee, following the inclusion in the Committee's terms of reference of the role to 'advise on the development and review of the Authority's ethical frameworks and associated policies'.

Members made several comments on the policies and suggested a number of additions to ensure they more accurately reflected the role of the Standards Committee and the application of the Code of Conduct complaints process. In relation to the Members' allowances and expenses policy, the Committee suggested that a comment be included in the section 'travel by public transport' to encourage Members to order rail tickets in advance to ensure costs were reduced wherever possible.

In reviewing the policies of the Authority, Members also requested that some scenarios be presented to a future meeting which would enable the Committee to consider 'live' issues which police authority standards committees may be likely to face. The Deputy Chief Executive undertook to arrange a brief training session in the New Year to undertake this and to view a DVD training module produced by Standards for England. Members were also invited to consider any other policies of the Authority which the Committee may wish to review at a future meeting.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the comments on the Corporate Code of Governance; Confidential Reporting Policy; and Guide to Members allowances & expenses be submitted to the Authority for consideration in the next review of those policies; and
- (2) a brief training session be arranged in January 2010 to review some police authority complaint related scenarios and Standards for England DVD based training module.

12. STANDARDS FOR ENGLAND ANNUAL ASSEMBLY: CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported on her attendance at the Standards for England Annual Assembly in Birmingham on 12/13 October 2009 and outlined the key themes from the sessions she attended.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

13. INDEPENDENT ADVISORY GROUP'S CODE OF CONDUCT

The Deputy Chief Executive reported on the code of conduct in place for members of the joint Authority/Constabulary Independent Advisory Group, following a request from a Member at the last meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

Duration of Meeting: The meeting commenced at 9.30am and concluded at 10.45am.

Chairman _____

10 June 2010