

**MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3  
JULY 2012**

16.00 pm – 16.10 pm

**Responsible Officer:** Penny Chamberlain

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**Present:**

Mr M Bennett, Mrs P Dee, Mr R Evans, Mr R Hughes, Dr J Jones, Mr C Mellings, Mr W Parr, Mrs R Taylor-Smith and Mr S West.

**1.0 Election of Chairman**

**1.1 RESOLVED:**

That Mr M Bennett be appointed Chairman of the Standards Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

**2.0 Apologies for Absence**

2.1 There were apologies for absence from Mrs J Barrow (Substitute: Mr R Hughes) and Mr V Hunt (Substitute: Mr W Parr).

**3.0 Election of Vice-Chairman**

**3.1 RESOLVED:**

That Mr S West be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

**4.0 Minutes**

**4.1 RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the Standards Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2011 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record

**5.0 Appointment of Standards Sub-Committee**

5.1 Consideration was given to a report by the Monitoring Officer – copy attached to the signed minutes – on the proposed establishment of a Standards Sub-Committee to take actions in respect of members of Shropshire Council who had been found to have failed to comply with the Code of Conduct, and to grant dispensations to members of Shropshire Council, and to consider appeals against the decision of the Monitoring Officer in relation to the granting of a dispensation.

## 5.2 **RESOLVED:**

- (a) That a Standards Sub Committee be set up to consist of three members of the Standards Committee to be appointed on an ad hoc basis as the need arises.
- (b) That the Standards Committee delegate authority to the Standards Sub Committee such of its powers as can be delegated to take decisions in respect of a member of Shropshire Council who is found to have failed to comply with the Code of Conduct, such actions to include:
- Reporting its findings to Council for information;
  - Recommending to the Member's Group Leader (or in the case of ungrouped members, recommend to Council or to Committees) that he/she be removed from any or all Committees or Sub-Committees of the Council;
  - Recommending to the Leader of the Council that the member be removed from the Cabinet, or removed from particular Portfolio responsibilities;
  - Instructing the Monitoring Officer to arrange training for the member;
  - Removing from all outside appointments to which he/she has been appointed or nominated by the authority;
  - Withdrawing facilities provided to the member by the Council, such as a computer, website and/or email and Internet access; or
  - Excluding the member from the Council's offices or other premises, with the exception of meeting rooms as necessary for attending Council, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings; and
  - Censure of the Member with or without a notice being required to be placed in the press.
- (c) That the Standards Committee delegate the power to grant dispensations to the Standards Sub Committee and to consider appeals against the decision of the Monitoring Officer in relation to the granting of a dispensation.

## 6.0 **Application For Dispensation**

- 6.1 Consideration was given to a report by the Monitoring Officer – copy attached to the signed minutes – on whether a dispensation should be granted to the Leader of Shropshire Council, Councillor Keith Barrow, who had a disclosable pecuniary interest as the Council's appointed Director of ip&e (group) Ltd.
- 6.2 During the ensuing discussion, some Members questioned the appropriateness of granting a dispensation for a period of four years in light of the Shropshire Council elections taking place in May 2013. A number of

Members therefore proposed that the dispensation be granted, either up to the next Annual Council, or for a period of one year only, to enable the newly elected Council in May 2013 to consider the matter afresh.

**6.3 RESOLVED:**

- (a) That, in accordance with section 33(1) of the Localism Act (“the Act”), the Committee grants a dispensation from Section 31(4) of the Act 2011 to Councillor Keith Barrow to participate in the discussion and vote on matters which relate to ip&e (group) Ltd at meetings of Shropshire Council (including Cabinet and any other formal decision making committees) on the grounds that it is in the interests of persons living in the Councils area.
- (b) That the dispensation granted in (a) above last for a period of 12 months from today’s meeting, or such time as Councillor Keith Barrow ceases to be a director of ip&e (group) Ltd, whichever is sooner.

Signed ..... (Chairman)

Date:.....