

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
10 SEPTEMBER 2009**

Present: Independent members: -  
Mr V Kempner (in the Chair)  
Mrs S Fellows

Councillors: -  
Daniel, Fawthrop, Martin, Roberts and Soan.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bird.

**6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

**7. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2009 be approved and signed by the chair as a correct record.

**8. INDEPENDENT MEMBERS**

The Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer presented a report suggesting immediate recruitment of two further independent members, in order to comply with Standards Board for England Guidance. The recommended terms of office of the existing Independent Members were coming to an end.

The Borough Solicitor recommended seeking Council's agreement to the principle of appointment of additional independent members. Also to delegate to Standards Committee the actions involved in recruitment and selection, with a view to appointment at the meeting of the Council in December.

The advertisement used by East Sussex County Council to recruit independent members was submitted, as a basis for any advertisement to be used by this Council. The Committee considered if the applicants should be required to live in Hastings. A proposal in favour of that requirement was agreed by 4 votes to 3 with 1 abstention and with the Chair using his casting vote.

**RESOLVED** that: -

- (1) Council be recommended to agree the principle of the appointment of two additional independent members with a view to replacing the existing members for a term of two years with a maximum total term of eight years;**
- (2) Council be recommended to delegate to Standards Committee the power to recruit and select two individuals with a recommendation to Council to appoint;**
- (3) the Borough Solicitor be instructed to place an advertisement in a local newspaper and on the Council's website, such advertisement to require applicants to live in Hastings; and**

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- (4) a Recruitment Sub-Committee, consisting of Mr Vic Kempner and Councillors Daniel and Fawthrop, be appointed subject to Council's agreement to the delegation sought.**

**9. STANDARDS COMMITTEE (FURTHER PROVISIONS) (ENGLAND)  
REGULATIONS 2009 – JOINT COMMITTEES AND  
DISPENSATIONS**

The Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer presented a report on the effect of the Standards Committee (Further Provisions) (England) Regulations 2009 and guidance received from the Standards Board for England in relation to the establishment of joint committees and dispensations. The provision for joint committees was seen as a means of assisting authorities in the performance of their functions under Part 3 Local Government Act 2009 and other legislation. Members had to give due consideration to the benefits this might have, not only in relation to costs but also the promotion of high standards in public life.

**RESOLVED that: -**

- (1) the effect of the Regulations and the Guidance issued by the Standards Board for England be noted;**
- (2) no action be taken at this time in respect of the establishment of a joint committee; and**
- (3) a sub-committee be established to consider applications for a dispensation from members with a prejudicial interest and to agree the criteria for granting dispensations as set out in paragraph 21 of the report. The Sub-Committee to consist of 1 independent member and 2 Councillors drawn from the membership of the Standards Committee as required.**

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.30 pm)