

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
29 JANUARY 2008**

Present: Independent members: -  
Mr V Kempner (in the Chair)  
Mrs S Fellows  
Councillors Bird, Daniel, Fawthrop, Smith and Soan.

**7. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2007 be approved and signed by the chair as a correct record.

**8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors made no declarations of interest at this meeting.

**9 CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED SECONDARY LEGISLATION AFFECTING STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

The Borough Solicitor reported on consultation from the Government on proposed orders and regulations to bring about the changes proposed in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. One of the significant effects of the Act was that the responsibility for the initial assessment of complaints was to be devolved to standards committees of relevant authorities.

The Government was only now consulting on the proposed regulations bringing these changes into effect from 1 April 2008. Interim arrangements were required in order that the Committee was able to perform its enlarged functions through the appointment of sub-committees. The report suggested augmentation of the membership of the committee to 12 members, consisting of three independent members and nine councillors. During debate, members agreed that the system of sub committees could operate with membership consisting of two independent members and six councillors.

The Government consultation document was appended to the report. A number of questions were asked and the suggested responses, on behalf of the Committee were appended.

**RESOLVED** that: -

**(1) the report be noted and responses to questions be approved and submitted as contained in appendix B to the report subject to the following changes: -**

**Question 2 – reply that there is a need for an adjudication role**

**Question 6 – reply that we are not in favour of an increase in the maximum sanction that the committee can impose**

**Question 7 – reply that we would prefer the chairs of the sub-committees to be independent**

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**Question 10 – reply that we consider that local authorities should set the level of fees; and**

**(2) Council be recommended to augment the membership of Standards Committee to 8.**

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.45 p.m.)