



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MEETING

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2006 AT 4.00PM

**EXECUTIVE MEETING ROOM, FLOOR 3,
GUILDHALL, PORTSMOUTH**

Telephone enquiries to Nick Eaton, 023 9283 4052

(NB This Agenda should be retained for future reference with the Minutes of this meeting.)

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies for absence**
- 2 Declaration of members' interests in accordance with Standing Order 14**
- 3 Minutes of last meeting – 12 June 2006**

A copy of the minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 12 June 2006 is attached.

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 12 June 2006 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

- 4 Establishment of a Governance and Audit Committee**

Purpose of Report

This report is to -

- Provide an update on the latest guidance from the Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) regarding best practice to enhance governance arrangements and meet level 4 of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) key line of enquiry on audit committees; and

- Make recommendations for the establishment of a governance and audit committee and revise the terms of reference of the Standards and General Purposes Committees.

Recommendations

- (1) That a Governance and Audit Committee, comprising 6 members (in political proportionality) together with standing deputies, be created as a regulatory committee with the functions and responsibilities set out in Appendix B;**
- (2) That the chair of the Governance and Audit Committee be a member free of executive functions or responsibility for chairing a policy and review panel;**
- (3) That the functions of the Standards Committee be revised –**
 - (a) to exclude the following matters (which will now become the responsibility of the Governance and Audit Committee) -**
 - Overview of complaints handling and Ombudsman investigations;
 - Overview of the City Council’s “whistle blowing” policy;
 - Oversight of the Constitution;
 - Power to make or amend standing orders relating to contracts, and financial standing orders or regulations in relation to the conduct of council business;
 - Monitoring the question of the provisions relating to call in and urgency set out in Part 3 of the Constitution and submitting an annual report to the City Council if necessary.
 - (b) to include responsibility for member training and development.**
- (4) That all the functions of the General Purposes Committee be re-allocated to the Governance and Audit, Development Control and Licensing Committees in accordance with the details set out in Appendix C.**
- (5) That arrangements be made for members of the Governance and Audit Committee when appointed to receive appropriate training in their role and responsibilities.**

5 Fifth annual assembly of Standards Committees, 16-17 October 2006

The fifth Annual assembly of Standards Committees is being held on the 16th and 17th of October at the International Conference Centre (ICC), Birmingham. Detailed information relating to the programme of events being held at the assembly can be seen on the Standards Board for England’s web

site at <http://www.annualassembly.co.uk/>

Summaries of each of the day programmes are attached for information. The City Solicitor will update the Committee on matters of particular interest.

RECOMMENDED that the programme of events for the fifth annual assembly of Standards Committees be noted.

6 Standards Committee future work programme

The City Solicitor has indicated that he would wish to update the Committee on a future work programme and to also explore members' views.

RECOMMENDED that the Committee give consideration to options for a future work programme.

Date of next meeting

Members are asked to note that the next meeting of the Committee is currently scheduled for Monday 6 November at 4.00pm