

**A MEETING OF THE STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
WAS HELD ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2007**

Councillors Carr (P), Kimber (P), Langdon (P), Smith , Wright (P) and Mrs Wright (P)

Independent Members: Mr R V Perry (P), vacancy.

Also present: Mr Mike Attenborough-Cox, Mazars (External Auditors)

13. APOLOGY

An apology for inability to attend the meeting was received on behalf of Councillor Smith.

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

15. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Standards and Governance Committee held on 19 July 2007 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

16. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

17. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

18. REPORT TO THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE 2006/07

The external auditor's report (a copy of which is attached in the Minute Book as Appendix "A") was introduced by Mr Attenborough-Cox of Mazars.

The work of the external auditors on the Council's Statement of Accounts was now substantially complete. A small number of mis-statements had been discovered but these had now been corrected. There were no issues of concern for Members and it was expected that an unqualified audit opinion would be issued by 28 September 2007.

The external auditors' work on the Council's use of resources was also nearing

completion. It was considered that the Council had made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources and it was expected that an unqualified opinion would be issued by 28 September 2007.

With regard to the Council's 2006/07 Best Value Performance Plan, the external auditors were satisfied that it had been prepared and published in accordance with the statutory requirements and that there were no matters that needed to be reported formally to the Council.

RESOLVED: That:

(a) the report of the external auditors (Mazars) to those charged with governance for 2006/07 be noted; and

(b) the Letter of Representation for the 2006/2007 audit be approved for signing by the Deputy Chief Executive and Borough Treasurer.

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm and concluded at 6.15pm.

CHAIRMAN