

**A MEETING OF THE STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
WAS HELD ON 05 April 2012**

Councillors Chegwyn (P), Mrs Forder (P), Jessop, Philpott (P), Scard (P) and Wright (P).

Independent Member: Mr R V Perry (P) (Chairman).

It was noted that, in accordance with Standing Orders, Councillor Burgess had been nominated to replace Councillor Jessop for this meeting.

39. APOLOGIES FOR NON ATTENDANCE

An apology for inability to attend the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor Jessop.

40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

41. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Standards and Governance Committee held on 13 December 2011 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

42. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

43. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

PART II

44. INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2012/13

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Internal Audit and Risk Assurance on the Internal Audit Plan 2012/13. The report provided the Committee with the planned annual coverage of Internal Audit resources for 2012/13.

A councillor made mention of the Audit Commission Briefing Notes circulated separately to members of the Committee. The Briefing Notes were not formally recorded on the agenda as a representative of the Audit Commission was unable to attend this meeting. Particular

reference was made to page 8 of the 'Certification of claims and returns – annual report (GBC Audit 2010/11)' and Recommendation 1: Put in place firm plans to demolish properties post 1 April 2012 and undertaken tenant consultation. As the Audit Commission were not present at the meeting it was agreed to refer this item to the next meeting of the Committee in June 2012 so that they could respond to this enquiry.

RESOLVED: That:

(i) the Committee agree without amendment the 2012/13 Internal Audit Plan as attached in Appendix One of the Head of Internal Audit and Risk Assurance's report; and

(ii) Recommendation 1 on page 8 of the Audit Commission's report entitled 'Certification of claims and returns – annual report (GBC Audit 2010/11)' be placed on the agenda of the next Standards and Governance Committee meeting in June 2012.

45. STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Consideration was given to the Workplan of the Standards and Governance Committee.

The Chairman asked for an update on the new standards regime which is scheduled to be introduced in the near future. The Borough Solicitor reported that the Local Government Association (LGA) was still in consultation on such protocols even though the Localism Act had received the Royal Assent; regulations were still not in force and were not expected to be until July 2012 at the earliest. There is no guidance in this respect on the government's CLG website. She referred to a letter that had been written to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government by the Chief Executive following the last meeting of the Committee regarding the proposal to stop current independent members from standing in future years.

The letter of reply from the Department's Parliamentary Under Secretary of State was not very clear; the essence of which was that during the transitional period there would be a relaxation to ease any such perceived problems thus allowing Local Authorities to retain their current independent members if they wished.

RESOLVED: That the Workplan be noted.

46. ANY OTHER ITEMS

There were no other items.

Members extended their thanks to Councillor Mrs Forder who would not be standing for re-election in the May Municipal Elections. Members also thanked the Chairman for his chairmanship of Committee meetings during the last Municipal Year.

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm and concluded at 6.13pm.

CHAIRMAN