

Minutes

Members in Attendance:

Independent

Mr R Gething, (Chairman), Dr M Mylechreest,

Members:

Mr D Stevens

**Members appointed
by the Authority:**

None in Attendance

1. Apologies for Absence

Mr R Rogers, Mr D Stevens, Cllr G Hopkins and Cllr J Goodwin.

2. Named Substitutes

None.

3. Declaration of Interests (if any)

No Member declared a personal or prejudicial interest in any of the items on this Agenda.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 April 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. Proposals for Change following Review of Committee Structure

The Clerk presented the proposals for a review of the structure of the Authority's Committees and their Terms of Reference. She pointed out that since the papers had been issued to Members of the Standards Committee that the proposals had been amended to expand the Audit Committee Membership to 10 in order to afford greater opportunities for Members to participate in Authority business at Committee level.

RESOLVED that the Standards Committee supports the proposals for a review of the structure of the Authority's Committees and their Terms of Reference.

6. Governance Review Proposals – changes to the Standards Committee's Terms of Reference

The Clerk presented to the meeting the proposed revised Terms of Reference for the Standards Committee which will be considered by the Fire and Rescue Authority on 28 September.

The meeting supported the proposals and suggested the following amendments:

In "Rules and Procedures", paragraph 10, delete "review".

Any references to "Lay Member/s" to read "Independent Members".

Any reference to "un-elected" to read "Appointed".

RESOLVED that the Standards Committee supports the proposed changes to their Terms of Reference.

7. The Future of Standards for England and the Standards Framework

The Clerk updated the Committee on recent Government announcements on the future of Standards for England and the Standards Framework, and the Meeting noted that it was likely that Standards for England and the current Standards regime would cease sometime between 31 December 2011 and 31 March 2012.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

8. Exclusion of Public and Press

The Clerk told the Committee that in her opinion the meeting should not be open to the public and press at the time item 9 was considered, for the reasons stated:

- (a) Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
- (b) Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

RESOLVED that the public and the press be excluded from the Meeting for the consideration by the Committee of Item number 9: "Applications for Dispensations".

9. Applications for Dispensations

The Clerk recommended to the Committee that a dispensation be granted to Members of the Authority who have requested same to enable them to consider matters as set out in the attached report .

The Committee considered the nature of the issues in question and the applications for dispensation which had been received from the following Members:

Mrs P Andrews, Mr T Bean, Mrs M Bunker, Mr J Champion, Mr J Cairns, Mr S Clee, Mrs L Duffy, Mrs L Eyre, Mr J Goodwin, Mr A Hardman, Mrs L Hodgson, Mrs G Hopkins, Brigadier P Jones CBE, Mrs F Oborski, Mrs J Potter, Mr D Prodger MBE, Mr C Smith, Mr T Spencer, Mr. D Taylor, Mr K Taylor, Mr J Thomas, Mr R Udall, Mr P Watts and Mr G Yarranton.

The Committee noted that Mr D Greenow had indicated he had applied for a dispensation in the same terms as the other Members, although the paper work had been posted it had yet to be received as at the date of the meeting.

RESOLVED:

- I. That dispensations be granted to each of the Members named above including Cllr David Greenow upon receipt of his written application. The dispensation will allow Members to take part in and vote on the issue set out in the report; and***
- II. That all of the dispensations granted in this matter will expire on 31 March 2011.***

The Clerk thanked the Members for their support in this matter and for attending the Meeting at relatively short notice.

The Meeting agreed to cancel the next meeting scheduled for 20 October and to meet again, as scheduled, on 17 March 2011 unless, in the meantime, there were further developments regarding the future of the Standards regime which required the Committee to re-convene.

The meeting finished at 11.53 am.

Signed:.....
Chairman.

Date:.....