

COUNCIL

18 March 2010

Agenda Item 64

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Extract from proceedings of the Standards Committee Meeting Held on the 19 January 2010		
Date of Meeting:	18 March 2010		
Report of:	Director of Strategy & Governance		
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Wards Affected:	All		

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**STANDARDS COMMITTEE****5.00pm 19 JANUARY 2010****COMMITTEE ROOM 1, HOVE TOWN HALL****MINUTES****Present:** Councillors: Carden, Drake, Lepper and Watkins**Independent Members:** Dr M Wilkinson (Chairman), Mrs H Scott**Rottingdean Parish Council Representatives:** Mr J C Janse van Vuuren and Mr G W Rhodes**Apologies:** Councillor Paul Steedman, Councillor Carol Theobald and Ms M Carter (Independent Member)**PART ONE****17. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

- 17.1 The Committee considered a report regarding the Annual Report of the Standards Committee (for copy see minute book).
- 17.2 Councillor Rhodes noted in the report that there was the indication that all of the Independent Members had been to visit Groups to discuss standards issues. This was not, in fact, correct and he asked for this statement to be rectified.
- 17.3 Councillor Lepper felt that the on-line Register of Interests was not kept as up-to-date as it should be, and asked what arrangements were made in this regard. The Senior Solicitor, Ms Woodley, stated that Democratic Services were responsible for registering

the updates on-line and this was done as soon as they were made aware of them. She stated that it was the responsibility of Members to make Democratic Services aware of any updates that were needed to the register, although a reminder email was sent out by the department every month to assist with this.

Councillor Lepper felt that, if this was the case, some Members were not updating the department quickly enough, or in some cases not at all. The Head of Law, Mr Ghebre-Ghiorghis, stated that reminders were made around the time of Annual Council. He noted that there might be a delay in updating the website and undertook to speak to Democratic Services to ensure this process was not being delayed.

- 17.4 Councillor Watkins felt that Independent Members of other meetings should be included on the reminder list that was sent out by Democratic Services to ensure their Register of Interests was up-to-date. He asked if questions could be asked about the Annual Report when it came to Full Council. Mr Ghebre-Ghiorghis replied that the standing orders did not give provision for questions to be asked of someone who was not a Member of the Council, and as the report would be presented by the Independent Chairman of the Standards Committee, questions would not be allowed.

Councillor Watkins felt it would be useful for the profile of standards issues to be raised within the Council. Mr Ghebre-Ghiorghis replied that a joint-working Strategy Officers Governance Group met every two weeks to discuss all aspects of good governance within the Council and any actions derived from this would be progressed forward by relevant officers.

17.5 **RESOLVED –**

1. That the Committee has reviewed and noted the report; and
2. That the Chairman presents the report to Full Council.