

**EXTRACT FROM THE DRAFT PROCEEDINGS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON THE 18 JANUARY 2011**

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors: Carden, Harmer-Strange, Lepper (Opposition Spokesperson) and Watkins

Independent Members: Dr M Wilkinson (Chairman), Mr Paul Cecil, Mr Peter Rose

Rottingdean Parish Council Representatives: Mr John Bustard, Mr Geoff Rhodes

Apologies: Councillor Lizzie Deane and Councillor Carol Theobald

PART ONE

22. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

- 22.1 The Committee considered a report from the Monitoring Officer regarding the Annual Report of the Standard Committee.
- 22.2 The Senior Solicitor, Ms Woodley, introduced the report, which outlined the work of the Committee over the last year. She noted that the undertaking to comply with the Code of Conduct had been duly signed by all Members of the Committee, and that the Membership of the Committee, which had remained fairly consistent over the life of the Committee, had promoted and maintained high standards across the Council for the period.

The functions of the Committee and its terms of reference were broad, and this was demonstrated in the varied work programme. The statistics for the number of Panel (or sub-committee) meetings held over the year were noted, and it was noted that Mr Ghebre-Ghiorghis had become the Monitoring Officer for the Council in August 2010. It was noted that Standards for England were in the process of winding down, following the publication of the Localism Bill, and periodic returns had been suspended. An update on the current status of the Localism Bill, and its implications for the Council would be dealt with in a following report.

- 22.3 Councillor Watkins asked where standards complaints would be escalated to if Standards for England was being decommissioned. Mr Ghebre-Ghiorghis reminded Members that a following report would deal with the implications of the Localism Bill as far as they were known.

22.4 RESOLVED –

1. That the Committee has reviewed the period January 2010 to December 2010 and has agreed the action it wishes to be taken.
2. That the Chairman be authorised to present the report to Council.