

**EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
CORPORATE GOVERNANCE GROUP MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, 23 JUNE 2010
(9.00 - 10.00 AM)**

Present: P Haywood (Chief Executive), D Macnab (Deputy Chief Executive), C O'Boyle (Director of Corporate Support Services), R Palmer (Director of Finance and ICT), B Bassington (Chief Internal Auditor) and I Willett (Assistant to the Chief Executive)

**Apologies for
Absence:**

Place: Room 1.29, 323 Building, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING - 19.5.10

Agreed subject to the action note under Minute 145 being amended by deleting "Audit and Governance Committee" and substituting "Finance and Performance Management Cabinet Committee".

2. MATTERS ARISING

None for this meeting.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

R Palmer declared an interest in item 6(a) (Standards Committee – Complaint Assessments, Reviews, Investigations and Adjudications) as he was a complainant in one case.

P Haywood declared an interest in an additional item raised under any other business at the meeting relating to the Annual Governance Statement as he was a signatory to that document. He remained in the meeting on the basis that he was signatory but did not participate in the discussion.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Noted.

5. STANDARDS COMMITTEE

(a) Complaint Assessments, Reviews, Investigations and Adjudications

Attached schedule noted.

6. STANDARDS FOR ENGLAND - ANNUAL ASSEMBLY 2010

Noted that a letter dated 11 June 2010 had been received from Standards for England stating that its 2010 Annual Assembly had been cancelled.

Noted that Standards for England had advised that the Government had announced that there would be provisions in its Decentralisation and Localism Bill "to abolish the Standards Board regime".

Noted that Standards for England would continue, however, until the relevant statutory changes came about.

7. AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - 21 JUNE 2010

(a) Annual Governance Statement 2009/10

Noted that the Audit and Governance Committee had not agreed a section of the Audit and Governance Statement prepared by the Monitoring Officer as the Committee considered that the format/style and tone of the section was out of keeping with the rest of the document.

Noted that, notwithstanding their reservations about the wording, the Committee had acknowledged that this section of the Governance Statement did raise important issues which needed to be addressed.

Noted that the Audit and Governance Committee had requested that the relevant section be re-worded and re-submitted to the next meeting of the Committee for further consideration and that this had meant that the Governance Statement could not be submitted to the Council meeting on 29 June as expected.

Agreed that the Monitoring Officer should view the webcast of the Audit and Governance Committee meeting and give further consideration to the format and content of the section, if necessary speaking to the Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee on any proposals to amend the document.

ACTION:

C O'Boyle to pursue.

8. DATE FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Next meeting 21 July 2010 at 9.00 a.m. in the Chief Executive's Office.