

**Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority  
Standards Committee Meeting  
at Brigade Headquarters, Shrewsbury  
on Wednesday, 26 April 2006 at 5.00 pm**

**AGENDA**

**1 Apologies for Absence**

**2 Declarations of Interest**

Members are reminded that they should declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests at this point and that they should leave the meeting before any item, in which they have a prejudicial interest, is discussed.

**3 Minutes**

Members are asked to agree the minutes of the last meeting of the Standards Committee, held on 24 January 2006, and that they be signed as a correct record. Attached marked **3. For decision.**

**4 Public Questions**

To receive any questions, statements or petitions, of which notice has been received, from members of the public.

**5 Amendments to Terms of Reference of the Standards Committee and Role Description of Independent Members**

This report proposes amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Standards Committee and the Role Description for Independent Members of that Committee to take into account the responsibility for local investigation and determination of alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct. Attached marked **5. For decision.**

**6 Access to Information Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) (Amendment) Regulations 2006**

This report informs the Committee about the changes made by the Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) (Amendments) Regulations 2006. Attached marked **6. For decision.**

**7 Dispensations**

This report provides further information on the process for determining dispensation applications (following the report provided to the Committee at the previous meeting). The report also provides a copy of the amended draft dispensation application form for further amendment and/or approval. Attached marked **7. For decision.**

**8 Complaints Made to the Standards Board for England against Fire Authority Members March 2005 – March 2006**

This report informs the Committee of complaints made to the Standards Board in respect of any potential breach of the Members' Code of Conduct during the period March 2005 to March 2006 and confirms the outcome of any such complaints. Attached marked **8. For information.**

## **9 Annual Assembly**

The Fifth Annual Assembly of Standards Committees will take place on 16 and 17 October this year at the International Conference Centre, Birmingham. Two places have been booked, one for a Member of the Standards Committee and one for an officer of the Fire Authority. It is proposed that whoever is the Chair of the Standards Committee at that time should attend. Members are asked to agree this proposal. **For decision.**

## **10 Eleventh Annual Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life**

This report provides details of the contents of the Eleventh Annual Report of the Committee on Standards and Public Life. Attached marked **10**. **For information.**

## **11 West Mercia Independent Members' Forum**

The minutes of the last meeting of the Forum (3 February 2006) are not yet available. The Chair of the Committee will, however, give a verbal summary of the business discussed.

## **12 Ethical Standards Bulletin**

Attached, marked **12**, is the latest Ethical Standards bulletin issued by Borough of Telford & Wrekin. Currently the bulletins are circulated to all Members of the Fire Authority (as well as Members of Borough of Telford & Wrekin and the Town and Parish Councils within the Borough). Members are asked to consider whether they wish these bulletins to be brought to meetings of this Committee for discussion. **For decision.**

## **13 Standards Board Bulletin**

Attached, marked **13**, is the latest bulletin issued by the Standards Board for England. Currently the bulletins are circulated to all Members of the Standards Committee. Members are asked to consider whether they wish these bulletins to be brought to meetings of the Committee for discussion and also whether they should be circulated to all Members of the Fire Authority. **For decision.**

## **14 October Meeting**

The Standards Committee is scheduled to meet on 16 October 2006, which unfortunately clashes with the Annual Assembly. Members are asked to agree an alternative date for this meeting and will, therefore, need to bring their diaries with them. **For decision.**