

**Leicestershire Police Authority**

**Minutes of a meeting of the Standards Committee  
held at Police Headquarters on Tuesday 3 March 2009**

**Present**

**Members**

Mr D Bill, Mrs M Darby, Mr F Mann and Mr D Prince. Mr P Brown – observing.

**Officers**

Mr R Swinfield (Chief Executive) and Mrs A Perry (Deputy Chief Executive).

**Mrs M Darby – in the Chair**

*The Chairman welcomed Mr David Prince to his first meeting of the Standards Committee.*

**01/09. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Mrs Newton and Mrs Martin.

**02/09. Items of Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

**03/08. Declarations of Interest**

The Chairman invited members who wished to do so to make declarations of any Code of Conduct interests in respect of items on the agenda for the meeting.

No such declarations were made.

**04/09. Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 September 2008**

The minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee meeting held on 9 September 2008, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed.

**05/09. Local Determination of Complaints**

The Committee received a report from the Chief Executive reviewing the remaining elements of the Standards Board for England non-statutory guidance and seeking approval for a revised Protocol for handling complaints. A copy of the report marked 'A' is filed with the minutes.

Members made the following comments:-

- Para 25 to state that the Monitoring Officer would have discretion to share factual points from the investigating officer's report with both parties to confirm factual accuracy.
- In relation to page A-94, para C4, there was no guidance on whether or not the assessment stage should include the criteria of being 'in the public interest'. Suggestions on this could be forwarded for discussion at the next Standards Board national conference.

It was RESOLVED:-

- (a) with the amendment listed above, to approve Appendices 2 and 3 as the Authority's Protocol for handling complaints of member misconduct;
- (b) that the Chief Executive discuss with regional colleagues the proposal to include a section in the complaint form asking if any other action was being taken in relation to the complaint, to ensure regional consistency;
- (c) to receive an Equality Impact Assessment on the procedure at the next meeting; and
- (d) to forward the proposal to the Standards Board for England that the issue of criteria for assessing a complaint include 'being in the public interest' and request this be addressed at the national conference.

#### **06/09. Annual Review of Standards Committee Issues**

The Committee received a report from the Chief Executive providing a summary of the standards and ethics issues faced by Leicestershire Police Authority since 1 January 2008. A copy of the report marked 'B' is filed with the minutes. The Gifts and Hospitality Register was brought to the meeting for members to view.

The Chief Executive stated that discussions had been held with regional colleagues with a view to each Authority's Standards Committee meetings being held on the same date, at the same venue in order to share good practice and as a learning aide to view the business being addressed by each Committee. However, he added that while this was not being progressed at this stage there would be the opportunity for members to attend other Standards Committee meetings held within the region.

It was noted that there was the possibility of the Code being amended later in the year and if so this would need to be reflected in members' training.

Members commented that they would wish to be assured that all members of the Authority had received training on the Code of Conduct by 1 April 2010.

Members welcomed the opportunity to monitor the training plan for the Authority and indicated a willingness to review the Member Development Interview process. The Chief Executive stated that the whistleblowing policy review would be brought to the next meeting of this Committee.

It was RESOLVED:-

- (a) that the Chairman of the Committee present this report to the next Police Authority meeting, including information on the work of the Committee during the past year as well as work planned for the forthcoming year;
- (b) that the lay independent members of the Committee meet with the Chief Executive to discuss their attendance at future meetings of the Authority and its Committees;
- (c) that two representatives from the other four regional police authorities' standards committees be invited to the next Committee meeting; and
- (d) to note the content of the Gifts and Hospitality Register.

**07/09. Code of Corporate Governance**

The Committee received a report from the Chief Executive providing the opportunity to comment on the Code of Corporate Governance for Leicestershire Police Authority. A copy of the report marked 'C' is filed with the minutes.

Members commented that the Code be amended to include the Chairman of the Committee presenting an annual report to the Police Authority on the work of the Committee.

It was RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

**08/09. Reports in Exempt Session**

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive for members to review the reasons why reports had been taken in exempt session in the Authority's public meetings. A copy of the report marked 'D' is filed with the minutes.

Members commented that an article on this report should be provided to the Standards Board publication as an area of good practice.

It was RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

**09/09. Declaring Interests**

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive for members to review when interests had been declared in the Authority's public meetings. A copy of the report marked 'E' is filed with the minutes.

The Chief Executive provided a handout detailing declarations made by members in Panel meetings of the Authority. A copy is filed with the minutes.

The Committee RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

**Chairman**

3 March 2009

2.00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.