

GWENT POLICE AUTHORITY

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

17th September 2007

Present: Mr D B Hughes (Chair)
Mr P E Davies
Councillor G S Evans

Together with: Mrs S A Bosson (Chief Executive)
Mrs S Curley (Committee Clerk)

The meeting commenced at 5.15 p.m.

Actions

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1. We received apologies for absence from Councillor K Critchley (Council Business) and Mr B P L Wallis.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2. There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES

3. We received and confirmed the minutes of the meeting of the 9th May 2007.

Matters Arising

Independent Members

We noted that the Home Office had not yet issued any regulations regarding the removal of the Lay Justice category of Members although it was meant to have taken place on 31st March 2008. The APA had written to Tony McNulty regarding the delay.

Members Allowances Scheme

We noted that the Police Authority had agreed and adopted the Members Allowance Scheme at the AGM in May. We were also informed that an informal Personal Development Scheme had been established. A copy of the form used would be sent to Members of this Committee.

CEX

Corporate Governance

We noted that the action which involved asking the officer responsible for the delay of an outstanding audit recommendation had been discussed at the Audit and Resources Committee.

A training day for Members had also been arranged with the WLGA for 1st November and would centre around the issue of 'Challenge'.

Code of Conduct

We noted that the Code of Conduct had been adopted at the AGM in May. Written undertakings had been signed by Members and the adoption of the code had been advertised on the Authority website and in the local newspaper.

STANDARDS BOARD ROADSHOW

4. We noted a report from the Chief Executive regarding the Standards Board Roadshow attended by the Chief Executive, Senior Policy and Member Services Manager and Mr B Wallis.

We noted that the roadshow had been useful but some elements had not been relevant as complaints were dealt with by the Public Services Ombudsman in Wales although the Code of Conduct was the same as the one followed by the English Authorities.

- We agreed that the Chief Executive arrange joint training of members of the Standards Committee and relevant officers with other Police Authorities in Wales on the revised Code of Conduct. **CEX**
- We agreed that the Chief Executive arrange for appropriate training to be provided to all members of the Police Authority on the revised Code of Conduct. **CEX**

ANNUAL REPORT ON GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY

5. We noted a report from the Chief Executive setting out the declarations made by Member and Officers of the Authority with regards to offers of Gifts and Hospitality with a value of over £25.

It was agreed that a letter should be sent to all Members of the Police Authority thanking them for continuing to make declarations over the past year and reminding them to fill in the declaration forms, including an estimated value, within 28 days of receipt of the gift/hospitality. **CEX**

We noted that although there was no longer any obligation on monitoring officers to maintain a separate register for gifts and hospitality and Members' interests, it was felt that we should continue to maintain separate registers in the interest of administrative efficiency.

'THE CODE UNCOVERED' – STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND DVD

6. We viewed a DVD explaining issues relating to the new Code of Conduct. The film explained rules regarding declaring interests, disclosing information and bullying.

We found the DVD interesting and informative and noted the intention to show it at a future Away Day. Members of this Committee would also be invited to attend.

Actions

CEX

BULLETINS 34 & 35 – STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND

7. We received and noted the content of Bulletins 34 and 35.

We noted that although the Authority did not have a protocol on disclosure of information, it was felt that the matter could be dealt with via Member training.

APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

8. There were no applications for dispensation.

ROLE OF DEPUTY MONITORING OFFICER

9. We noted that Carol Knight, Deputy Monitoring Officer would be leaving the Police Authority at the end of the week and that the Chief Executive would be recommending that Neil Taylor take on the role.

The meeting concluded at 6.25 p.m.