

THE STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND
Board Meeting

Board Room
1st Floor, Cottons Centre
Cottons Lane, London SE1 2QG
12 July 2006
10.00am – 2.00pm

Meeting Minutes

Present: Sir Anthony Holland, Chair (except items 06/69 – 06/81)
Paul Gott
Elizabeth Hall
Paul Sabapathy, CBE (Chair for items 06/69 – 06/81)
Professor Judith Simons
Roger Taylor (not item 06/80 onwards)

Apologies: Patricia Hughes, CBE, Deputy Chair

In attendance: David Prince, Chief Executive
Tim Bogan, Communications Manager
Chris Boothman, Head of Legal Services
Allister Duncan, Head of Corporate Services
Lucy Morris, Acting Head of Referrals Unit
Paul Hoey, Head of Policy and Guidance
Lisa Klein, Head of Investigations

The Chair advised that he would have to leave the meeting for a medical appointment. The Board appointed Paul Sabapathy to the chair in his absence. The closed items were taken first.

ACTION

06/69 Apologies
Patricia Hughes.

06/70 Minutes of Board Meeting held on 17 May 2006 (Open Session)
The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

06/71 Matters Arising
The Chair confirmed that the Department for Communities and Local Government is commencing immediately with the appointment of political Board members, and with the appointment of a new Chair.

06/72 Declaration of Board Member interests and forthcoming engagements

- The Chair has meetings set up with Sheridan Westlake (Head of the Local Government Desk at Conservative Central Office) and Damian Green (Shadow Attorney General)
- Paul Sabapathy has been appointed a Trustee of the Bourneville Village Trust from Monday, 17 July 2006

06/73 Team Briefing
The Board noted the report.

06/74 Annual Report and Accounts 2005-06
The Board approved the Annual Report and Accounts for 2005-06 and thanks were passed to the Head of Corporate Services and his team. The Board noted the deficit on the pension fund and the liability to the organisation, recognising that this was part of a much wider national funding issue being examined by DCLG and

local government generally.

06/75 Board Meetings, Away Days and Panels 2007

The Board approved the schedule of dates, with the exception of the Audit Committee meeting on 24 January which was changed to 17 January. The Board agreed to appoint Margaret Pratt as an independent member of the Audit Committee until July 2007. The Chief Executive will write to her accordingly. The Board agreed that the search should begin for one additional independent member and that a financial background would be desirable. The Chair was authorised to make the appointment.

CE

HoCS

06/76 Good governance in local government: a framework consultation draft

The Board agreed to endorse the document, together with the LGA, Audit Commission and other invited bodies, as a recommended framework for use by local authorities in updating their own codes of governance, and that the final form of such endorsement should be agreed and signed by the Chair.

CE

06/77 Referrals Unit: document review

The Board approved the following documents:-

- Document A: internal document.
- Document B: decision notice issued to the subject member, the complainant, the monitoring officer and, where appropriate, the clerk when officers make an insufficiently serious decision.
- Document C: decision notice issued to the same persons when officers decide to refer an allegation for investigation.

06/78 Chief Executive's Report

The Board received the report.

06/79 Performance against the Operational Plan

The Board noted the report.

06/80 Corporate Services Report

The Board noted the report. Staff involved in the Policy and Guidance move to Manchester were thanked for their efforts.

HoCS

06/81 Annual Assembly update

The Board noted the report. Board members were asked to suggest speakers for the Big Debate and also the Freedom of Expression session.

06/82 – The Board then went into Closed session.
06/90

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 21 September 2006 at 9.30am

The Chair advised that the 15 November Board Meeting will take place in Manchester from 12noon – 3pm to allow for travel within the day. Professor Simons advised that she would not be able to attend due to a prior commitment in London.

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Chair