

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL AND ESSEX FIRE
AUTHORITY JOINT STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD AT COUNTY HALL,
CHELMSFORD, ON 21 DECEMBER 2015 AT 2:00 pm**

1. Present

Cllr J W Pike (Chairman)	Cllr C Guglielmi
Cllr S Canning	Cllr J Moyies (EFA)
Cllr T Cutmore	Cllr Lady Newton (EFA)
Cllr J Deakin	Cllr C C Pond

The Chairman welcomed new members to the meeting.

The following officers were present in support throughout the meeting:
Terry Osborne (Monitoring Officer), Paul Turner (Deputy Monitoring Officer) and
Andy Gribben (Council and Member Support Officer);

2. Apologies and Substitution Notices

Apologies for absence were received from Essex County Councillors A J Bayley, T Higgins (substitute Councillor J Deakin), R Hirst and M McEwen (substitute Councillor S Canning); Essex Fire Authority representative Councillor M Coxshall (Thurrock Unitary).

Apologies were also received from the Council's two Independent Persons Mr N Hodson and Mr J Swan.

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Pond declared that he was the Chairman of Epping Forest Parishes' Joint Standards Committee.

4. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

Councillor T Cutmore was appointed Vice-Chairman of the committee.

5. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 August 2014 were approved as a correct record.

6. Dispensation

The Committee considered a report by the Monitoring Officer (SC/001/15) an application for a dispensation in respect of Councillor G Barker, a co-opted member of Essex County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

In response to questions from Members it was clarified that should a matter arise at Essex County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee in connection with which Councillor Barker might otherwise have had a -pecuniary interest, he should disclose it but refer to the dispensation that has been agreed..

Resolved:

1. That the dispensation to Councillor Graham Barker be granted which:
 - (a) allows him to participate in matters at the Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (or any of its Sub-Committees) notwithstanding his work as a locum GP; and
 - (b) Does not apply if the matter being considered has a greater effect on GP practices where Councillor Barker has worked within the last two years than it does on GP practices in the relevant CCG area.
2. That the dispensation should last for a period of 4 years.
3. That the Monitoring Officer should write to Councillor Barker to let him know the outcome of the application.

7. Investigation and Hearings Procedure

The Committee considered a report by the Monitoring Officer (SC/002/15) that provided members of the committee with a note of the procedure to be adopted by the Monitoring Officer and/or the Standards Committee when investigating and/or hearing allegations of breaches of the code of conduct against members of the Council. It was also recommended that a similar procedure may in future be adopted for handling complaints against members of the Fire Authority.

The Monitoring Officer advised members of the Committee that when a Member had been appointed to another body then the Code of Conduct of that other body applied.

It was agreed that (once some typographical errors had been corrected) the revised Investigations and Hearing Procedure and the current Code of Conduct would be distributed to Members.

Resolved:

The Committee noted and endorsed the new procedure in the form appended to the report.

8. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting would be advised.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2:30pm.

Chairman