

## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 30 June 2008**

### **AMENDMENT TO THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION IN RELATION TO THE SETTLEMENT OF COMPLAINTS**

The Director of Law, H.R. and Asset Management reported that the current scheme of delegation provided for the amounts that could be paid as compensation to settle complaints. It was felt that there were practical difficulties with the current scheme which inhibited the ability of the Council to respond effectively to complaints and resolve them at the earliest possible stage. He therefore sought the Committee's endorsement of proposed amendments to the scheme, which would then be referred to the Cabinet and the Council for approval.

Following a discussion as to what might be the appropriate upper limit of compensation that could be agreed without recourse to the Committee, on a motion by Councillor McLachlan, seconded by Councillor Blakeley, it was –

#### **Resolved – That**

- (1) the Officers' Scheme of Delegation be amended to allow them to**
  - (a) settle complaints of maladministration, after consultation with the Director of Finance and the Director of Law, H.R. and Asset Management, by making compensation payments up to a maximum of £1,000 in any one case. The terms of such settlements shall subsequently be reported to the Standards Committee;**
  - (b) settle complaints of maladministration, after consultation with the Chair of the Standards Committee, the Director of Finance and the Director of Law, H.R. and Asset Management, by making compensation payments up to a maximum of £5,000 in any one case. The terms of such settlements shall subsequently be reported to the Standards Committee (and cases over £5,000 would be dealt with by the Standards Committee, in accordance with Article 9 in Part 2 of the Constitution).**
- (2) the terms of reference of this Committee be amended to allow it to approve the payment of compensation involving sums in excess of £5,000 to settle complaints of maladministration.**