

ITEM 4

Time Commenced – 10.00am

Time Finished – 11.10am

STANDARDS COMMITTEE 3 AUGUST 2007

Present: Reverend Canon R B Blowers – Chair
Mrs C McDowall, Mr P Sunderland
Councillors Jackson, Skelton and Wood

Officers in Attendance: Michael Foote, Corporate Director, Corporate and Adult Services
Stephen Teasdale, Solicitor, Corporate and Adult Services

01/07 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

02/07 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

The Chair welcomed Councillor Wood to the meeting and asked that the Committee's thanks be passed onto Councillor Latham for her contribution to the Committee.

03/07 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2007 were confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chair.

04/07 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Skelton declared a personal interest in minute number 08/07 as she had worked with residents in her ward who objected to the planning application for 59 Blagreaves Lane.

Councillor Wood declared a personal interest in minute number 08/07 as he lived in the same road as former Councillor Samra.

05/07 Code of Conduct Training

The Committee received an oral update from Michael Foote, Director Corporate and Adult Services on the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007. He told the Committee that two sessions had taken place in June 2007 and that all but seven members and four co-opted members had attended the training. He said that another session would be arranged for September 2007 in order to ensure everyone had undertaken the training.

Resolved to note the report

06/07 Feedback on Stage 3 Complaints

There were no outstanding Stage 3 Complaints.

07/07 Exclusion of Press and Public

To Committee considered whether to pass the following resolution to exclude the press and public:

“That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the following item on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3, 4 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information”

Resolved to not exclude the press and public.

08/07 Investigation Relating to Complaint Against a Former Councillor

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Corporate and Adult Services, setting out details of an investigation into an allegation against the former Councillor Samra of a breach of the Council's Code of Conduct. Stephen Teasdale, Solicitor presented the report and informed the Committee that the investigation was carried out with regard to the previous Code of Conduct, but that the conclusion reached in the report would not have been affected by the recent changes.

The report concluded that in terms of the allegation no breach of the Council's Codes of Conduct had occurred.

Resolved to:

- 1. endorse the conclusion of the investigation that no breach of the Council's Codes of Conduct had occurred.**
- 2. ask the Director of Corporate and Adult Services to write to the following people informing them of the Committee's decision:**
 - i. The complainant**
 - ii. Former Councillor Samra**
 - iii. The Standards Board**
- 3. thank the Solicitor for carrying out a thorough investigation.**

08/07 Date of Next Meeting

The Committee noted that the next meeting of the Standards Committee would take place on Monday 29 October 2007 at 10am.

MINUTES END