

Time Commenced – 10.05am

Time Finished – 11.15am

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

18 SEPTEMBER 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
Steve Dunning - Assistant Director - Democratic Services
Alison Jones - IT Security/Data Protection Officer

10/07 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

11/07 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

12/07 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

13/07 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 August 2007 were confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chair.

14/07 Member Training Update

The Committee received an oral update from the Assistant Director, Democratic Services on the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007. He told the Committee that a third training session had taken place in September 2007. The few members and co-opted members who had not attended a session would have written material sent to them. The training had now been completed to the satisfaction of the Committee.

Resolved to note the update.

15/07 Predisposition, Predetermination or Bias, and the Code

The Committee received an Occasional Paper published by the Standards Board for England regarding predisposition, predetermination or bias, and the Code of

Conduct. The Corporate Director, Corporate and Adult Services advised that this would be distributed to members and co-opted members in due course.

Resolved to note the report.

16/07 The Code of Conduct DVD

Resolved to postpone consideration of this item until the meeting of Monday 29 October.

17/07 Exclusion of Press and Public

The 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.

18/07 Allegation of Breach of the Code of Conduct

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Corporate and Adult Services / Monitoring Officer. This updated members on the investigation of a complaint that Councillor Harbon had broken the Members' Code of Conduct by allowing her partner to use the Council's email and IT systems.

Resolved to:

- 1. invite Councillor Harbon to an informal meeting with the Chair of the Standards Committee, the Assistant Director - Democratic Services and Mrs Cynthia McDowell.**
- 2. inform Councillor Harbon of the intention to hold a hearing of the Standards Committee on Friday 12 October.**
- 3. recommend that the Council suspend Councillor Harbon's access to the Council's IT network under the relevant protocols.**
- 4. ask the Corporate Director of Corporate and Adult Services to consider whether any further action should be taken.**

19/07 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