

Time Commenced – 9.30am
Time Finished – 12.00pm

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE
23 SEPTEMBER 2005**

Present: Reverend Canon R B Blowers – Chair
Mr G Bagga, Mrs C McDowall,
Councillors Baxter and Latham

Officers in Attendance:

Michael Foote – Director of Corporate Services
Jason Spencer – Constitutional and Electoral Services Manager

6/05 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Skelton

7/05 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 August 2005 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

8/05 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

8/05 Exclusion of Press and Public

Following consultation with the Director of Corporate Services and the complainant, the Committee agreed that an exemption under section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 did not apply, and that the meeting should therefore be held in public.

9/05 Complaint by a Member of the Public

The Committee considered a complaint that had been referred to them to consider as Stage 3 of the Corporate Complaints procedure. The complainant and the Council were given an opportunity to present their case to the Committee and ask questions of each other.

The Committee were advised of the replacement of two bus stops on Willowcroft Road, Spondon, identified as A and B in the supporting papers, with a single bus stop identified as C. The complainant considered that there had been poor consultation on the proposed changes and that the change in bus stop provision was having a detrimental effect upon bus users in the area, particularly older people. Peter Price, Transport Policy Manager, Development and Cultural Services and Shaun Garford of TrentBarton, the main bus operator on that road,

attended to provide an explanation of the changes and answer questions. They acknowledged that consultation on the changes could have been much better and as a result procedures were being improved for any future changes.

Resolved

- 1. To recommend the Director of Development and Cultural Services to carry out a full consultation exercise on the replacement of the two bus stops A and B on Willowcroft Road with bus stop C on the same road. Local residents, ward Councillors and users of the Spondon Flyer should be consulted, with the consultation exercise being concluded by the end of November 2005 to enable a report on the results to be made to the meeting of this Committee on 9 December 2005.**
- 2. To ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to consider, should the result be that bus stop C be retained, the construction of a bus lay-by at that point together with a barrier to deter children rushing from the recreational ground.**

10/05 Member Training

The Committee considered an oral update from the Director of Corporate Services on ethical standards training to be provided to Councillors. He confirmed that training would be provided at the Council House between 4pm and 6pm on Monday 10 October and Tuesday 15 November. The first session would be an opportunity to remind Councillors about the Code of Conduct, with the second session providing an insight in to standards issues through role play.

Resolved to note the report

11/05 Recent Developments Relating to the Code of Conduct

The Committee considered an oral update from the Director of Corporate Services on recent developments relating to the code of conduct. He reported that the recent Standards Board Annual Conference had been very useful, with several Councils sharing their experiences of conducting their own investigations.

It was confirmed that in recent months the number of cases being delegated to Councils to investigate and determine had risen, with around 50% of all cases referred to the Standards Board being determined locally.

It was reported that it was likely that there would soon be changes to the way in which the Standards Board operated with its main role as an advisory body or a last resort dealing with difficult or high profile cases. It was also reported that the Standards Board had received over 1000 responses to consultation on proposed changes to the Code of Conduct, the majority of which were supportive of the proposals.

It was confirmed that currently there were no cases relating to Councillors in Derby with the Standards Board.

Resolved to note the report

MINUTES END