

Time Commenced – 10.00am
Time Finished – 11.10am

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE
28 NOVEMBER 2003**

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

Officers In Attendance: Michael Foote - Director of Corporate Services
Steve Dunning - Assistant Director – Democratic Services
Jason Spencer – Principal Members Services Officer

Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

10/03 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2002 were approved as a correct record.

11/03 Local Determination

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Corporate Services and Monitoring Officer, setting a proposed procedure for dealing with investigation reports completed by ethical standards officers and referred to the monitoring officer.

Under the Local Authorities (Code of Conduct) (Local Determination) Regulations 2003, Monitoring Officers had to arrange for their Standards Committees to determine whether or not a member had failed to follow the Code of Conduct and if so, what, if any, penalties should be applied following a referral. Attached to the report was a proposed procedure for dealing with reports referred.

The procedure generally followed the guidance issued by the Standards Board for England. However the Board had recommended that panels should be established of three or five members to make determinations. The Committee were of the view that as it was made up of six members, it would prefer to continue to meet as a full Committee and not exclude one of its members from a hearing.

Resolved

- 1 To approve the procedure for dealing with investigation reports completed by ethical standards officers and referred to the monitoring officer.**
- 2 To ask the Director of Corporate Services and Monitoring Officer to send a copy of the procedure, and supporting flow chart, to the Standards Board for England, pointing out the reasons for not complying with the guidance in respect of the number of members on the Panel.**
- 3 To note the need to have an alternative procedures for cases that had been referred from the Standards Board for England but had not involved an ethical standards officer.**

12/03 Ethical Framework Training

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Corporate Services and Monitoring Officer, setting out the draft programme for the Ethical Framework Training for Councillors to be held on 7 January 2004.

The Committee suggested minor changes to the timetable.

Resolved to approve the programme for the Ethical Framework Training for Councillors to be held on 7 January 2004 subject to the minor changes suggested at the meeting.

08/03 Date of Next Meeting

Resolved to hold the next meeting of the Committee at 10am on 19 March 2004.

MINUTES END