



AGENDA ITEM: 8

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE:
1 JUNE 2006**

Report of: Council Secretary and Solicitor

**Contact for further information: Mrs G L Rowe (Extn 5004) and
Mrs J Denning (Extn 5004)**

SUBJECT: SBE 11605.05 – RESPONSE FROM HALSALL PARISH COUNCIL

The following wards are affected:- Halsall

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To advise the Committee of the response received from Halsall Parish Council following the decision taken at the meeting held on 20 December 2005 in relation to SBE 11605.05.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the letter received from Halsall Parish Council and the progress made by the Parish Council in implementing the recommendations of this Committee, be noted.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Committee at its meeting held on 20 December 2005 considered the report of the Council Secretary and Solicitor which presented a copy of Eversheds' final report arising from the local investigation in respect of SBE 11605.05.

3.2 In relation to the Investigating Officer's recommendations to the Parish Council, these were endorsed by the Committee and the Parish Council were asked to consider:

“(a) training for all Members regarding their roles and responsibilities and standards expected of them as Members of Halsall Parish Council, including respect for the Chairman in managing meetings;

- (b) a review of all the procedures and rules of the Parish Council and the drafting of an appropriate scheme of delegation of functions to ensure that the Parish can operate effectively on a day-to-day basis and that they present good practice;
- (c) training for all Members in relation to approval of expenses and the correct procedures for expending money with reference to any current or revised Financial Regulations, Procedure Rules and Scheme of Delegation;
- (d) training for all Members in relation to dealings with employees.”

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The Council Secretary and Solicitor contacted Halsall Parish Council via a letter and a written response has been received which is attached at appendix 1.

5.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 5.1 These matters relate to the promotion of high ethical standards at a local level.

6.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial or resource implications arising from this report.

7.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 Statutory procedures have been followed in relation to the local investigation.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 Halsall Parish Council have made significant progress as a result of the investigation undertaken.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

There is no evidence from an initial assessment of an adverse impact on equality in relation to the equality target groups.

Appendices

1. Letter from Halsall Parish Council – 14 March 2006
2. Letter from the Council Secretary and Solicitor to Halsall Parish Council - 21 December 2005