

## STANDARDS COMMITTEE

**HELD: 1 NOVEMBER 2006**

Start: 4.30pm

Finish: 5.30pm

### PRESENT

Independent Members: J Cailes (Chairman)  
P Hanmer (Vice Chairman)  
R Chester  
R Merry  
B Molyneux

Councillors Mrs Atherley  
Dereli  
Grant  
Nolan

Parish Councillor Hammond

Officers: Council Secretary & Solicitor  
Assistant Member Services Manager

### 12. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Parish Councillor D Kitson.

### 13. URGENT BUSINESS, IF ANY, INTRODUCED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There were no items of urgent business.

### 14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Members declared a personal interest in items 6 and 8 on the agenda, 'Constitutional Training for Parish Councils' and 'Visits – Parish and District Council Meetings' as Members of the Parish Councils indicated.

| MEMBER                    | PARISH COUNCIL |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Councillor Mrs Atherley   | Aughton        |
| Councillor Dereli         | Burscough      |
| Councillor Grant          | Aughton        |
| Parish Councillor Hammond | Parbold        |

### 15. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 16. STANDARDS COMMITTEE - PROACTIVE WORK PROGRAMME 2006/07

The Committee considered the report of the Council Secretary and Solicitor, which set out a proactive work programme for the Standards Committee 2006/07.

RESOLVED That the work programme attached at Appendix 1 to the report be agreed incorporating the proactive initiatives set out therein.

#### **17. CONSTITUTIONAL TRAINING FOR PARISH COUNCILS**

The Committee considered the report of the Council Secretary and Solicitor to assess the need and demand from Parish Councils for constitutional training, before deciding whether to request the Council to provide funding for such training.

RESOLVED That given the response from Parish Councils and the availability of constitutional training from the LAPTC, no further action be taken at present.

#### **18. ANNUAL STANDARDS BOARD CONFERENCE**

The Committee considered the report of the Council Secretary and Solicitor which provided details on the Standards Board Conference held on Monday, 16 and Tuesday, 17 October 2006 in Birmingham.

RESOLVED That the contents of the report be noted.

#### **19. VISITS - PARISH AND DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The Committee considered the report of the Council Secretary and Solicitor which identified a way forward with regard to visits to meetings of Parish and District Council Meetings.

- RESOLVED
- A That members of the committee undertake a series of visits to District Council and Parish Council meetings as observers, with the intent that this will increase their understanding of the way Councils are operating in West Lancashire and of conduct at meetings and also raise the profile of the Committee.
  - B That informal feedback into a general discussion on their visits be given by members on an annual basis.
  - C That visits to District Council meetings should be undertaken by the Independent and Parish Members, as District Councillors are already familiar with the workings of Council meetings.
  - D That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee start the visits off by attending Council on 13 December 2006.
  - E That the Assistant Member Services Manager liaise with relevant members to arrange for two members of the committee to attend Planning Committee on 15 February 2007 and two members to attend Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 12 April 2007.
  - F That the Assistant Member Service Manager prepare a programme of visits to Parish Councils in the next 12 to 18 months and liaise

with members of the committee to undertake approximately 4 visits each, 2 members to attend per visit.

**20. COMPLAINTS TO THE STANDARDS BOARD - UPDATE**

The Council Secretary and Solicitor circulated the current statistics and advised the committee that three complaints had been made to the Standards Board this year which had not been referred for investigation.

RESOLVED That the current position be noted.

**21. CODE OF CONDUCT SEMINAR - ARRANGEMENTS**

The Committee considered the report of the Council Secretary and Solicitor which provided an update on arrangements for the Annual Code of Conduct Seminar given the imminent revision to the Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED That the seminar be held on Thursday, 29 March 2007.

**22. STANDARDS COMMITTEE INVESTIGATIONS AND HEARINGS - DVD**

RESOLVED That the training DVD from the Standards Board for England be viewed when a complaint is received which requires investigation.

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THE CHAIRMAN