

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

HELD: 13 FEBRUARY 2008

Start: 4.30pm

Finish: 5.40pm

PRESENT

Independent Members: J Cailes (Chairman)
P Hanmer (Vice Chairman)
P Hayman

Councillors Mrs Atherley
Dereli

Parish Councillor D Kitson

Officers: Council Secretary & Solicitor
Assistant Member Services Manager
Legal and Member Services
Assistant

23. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Independent Members, R Chester and R Patterson, Councillors Grant and Nolan and Parish Councillor M Hammond.

24. URGENT BUSINESS, IF ANY, INTRODUCED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There were no items of urgent business.

25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

26. MINUTES

RESOLVED The minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 1 November 2007 were received as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

27. CONSULTATION - LOCALLY BASED ETHICAL FRAMEWORK

The Committee considered the report of the Council Secretary and Solicitor, as contained on pages 117 to 162 of the Book of Reports, which advised of the consultation paper on Orders and Regulations relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members in England.

RESOLVED A That the contents of the consultation paper at Appendix 1 to the report be noted.

B That the draft response at Appendix 2 to the report be sent to the Department of Communities and Local Government by Friday, 15 February 2008 subject to the following amendments:

Bullet Point 1 – The addition of the following:

“We would hope that sufficient time would be given for the Guidance from the Standards Board to be received and implemented. A more appropriate date might be the Council’s Annual Meeting in May when new committee members are appointed.”

Bullet Point 4 – Be amended to read:

“Resourcing issues are significant, particularly because of the number of Parish Councils in West Lancashire, and the requirement to incur advertisement costs etc should be minimised.”

Bullet Point 7 – Be amended to read:

“Cognisance of the fact that financial support is not being given by Central Government to Councils for the full cost of these functions should be taken.”

28. LOCAL ASSESSMENT - IMPLEMENTATION

The Committee considered the report of the Council Secretary and Solicitor, as contained on pages 163 to 171 of the Book of Reports, which referred to the implementation of Local Assessment.

RESOLVED That the update and general approach be noted and endorsed.

29. LANCASHIRE STANDARDS CONFERENCE - 31 MARCH 2008

RESOLVED That the arrangements for the Lancashire Standards Conference being held in the Woodlands Conference Centre, Chorley, on Monday 31 March 2008 at 10.00am, be noted and the possibility for transport be investigated.

30. CODE OF CONDUCT SEMINAR/WORKSHOP AND TRAINING PACK - FUTURE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

The Committee considered the success of the Seminar/Workshop event held at Edge Hill University on Thursday 29 November 2007 and discussed the training pack and future training requirements.

Members commented that the event and the training pack issued was very good and that attendance had been excellent.

RESOLVED That the comments raised be noted.

31. ANNUAL STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND (SBE) CONFERENCE 2008

RESOLVED That any member interested in attending the Annual Standards Board for England Conference being held on 14 & 15 October 2008 in Birmingham, contact the Council Secretary and Solicitor.

32. PLANNING CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE

RESOLVED

That it be noted that the Council Secretary and Solicitor was intending to bring a report on the Planning Code of Good Practice to the next meeting of the Committee.

The Chairman