

Standards Committee – Meeting held on Wednesday, 13th February, 2008.

Present:-

Co-opted Independent Members:-

The Reverend Paul Lipscomb (Chair), Mr Fred Ashmore and Dr Henna Khan

Elected Members:-

Councillors, Aziz, L Khan, Mann and O'Connor

Parish Councillor Representative:-

Britwell Parish Councillor Nicoline Brandligt

Apologies for Absence:- Mr Mike Field, Councillors Dhaliwal and Finn

PART 1

23. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

24. Minutes of the last Meeting of the Committee held on 14th January 2008

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 14th January, 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

25. Department of Communities and Local Government Consultation Document - "Orders and Regulations Relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members in England"

The Standards Committee considered the report and the responses to the department of Communities and Local Government's Consultation Paper on "Orders and Regulations relating to the conduct of Local Authority Members in England". The Chair informed the Committee that the final version of responses had been fully agreed by the appropriate Officers and himself.

A member raised two points. The first was regarding paragraph 3 and 4 of the consultation. The Member felt that these paragraphs contradicted each other regarding a member of the standards committee who had taken part in decision making on the initial assessment of an allegation being involved in the review of any subsequent request. The Chair informed the Committee that although at first these two paragraphs did appear to contradict each other the second paragraph contained the ultimate recommendation taking into account the resource implications.

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The second issue was in relation to question 9. The Member felt that an additional bullet point in the list of circumstances that would trigger suspension of a committees powers should be included which stated that “a disproportionate number of cases that result in maximum sanctions proposed”. The Chair noted that the proposal was related to a breakdown of a Standards Committee and there may be legitimate reasons for a high number of maximum sanctions being proposed.

Resolved – That the responses on the consultation as set out in appendix 1 of the report be submitted to the Department of Communities and Local Government.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.15 pm and closed at 6.25 pm)