
MEETING	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
DATE	14 MARCH 2008
PRESENT	MRS BAINTON (INDEPENDENT MEMBER, IN THE CHAIR), KIRK, HORTON (VICE-CHAIR), HUDSON AND CRAWFORD (PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER)
IN ATTENDANCE	COUNCILLOR MELLORS (PARISH COUNCIL SUBSTITUTE MEMBER)

PART B - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

37. STANDARDS COMMITTEE - CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

Members considered a report which asked them to recommend to Council certain changes to the constitution and composition of the Standards Committee, in order to meet the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (the Act) and associated requirements.

As reported at the last meeting, the provisions requiring the Committee to undertake the role of carrying out initial assessments of complaints were expected to come into effect from 1 April 2008. To enable it to perform this role, it was proposed to increase the size of the Committee to 11, comprising 4 City councillors, 4 independent members and 3 parish councillors. An advertisement had been placed in the local press for independent members but to date only one response had been received. It was suggested that the deadline for applications be extended, pending a targeted 'recruitment' process focused upon groups such as the local magistracy, church organisations and York CVS. With regard to parish councillor members, it was proposed that Cllr Mellors, the current substitute, be appointed to full membership. A further nomination had been sought from the Yorkshire Local Councils Association but this had not yet been received.

Further changes were required to enable the Committee to set up sub-committees in order to carry out assessments, re-assessments and hearings under the Act. It was also proposed to amend the terms of reference to give effect to the Ethical Governance Audit's recommendation that the Committee be given an oversight role in respect of complaints handling and Ombudsman investigations. Finally, it was suggested that the Council's Members' Allowances Scheme be revised to enable payment of allowances to be withdrawn from a member suspended from office due to failure to comply with the Code of Conduct. Details of the amendments to the Constitution required to give effect to these changes were set out in Annexes A and B to the report.

RECOMMENDED: (i) That Councillor Brian Mellors (substitute Parish Representative) be made a full member of the

Standards Committee, together with the representative selected by the Yorkshire Local Councils Association.

(ii) That Council seek a nomination from the Green Party Group for membership of the Standards Committee.

(iii) That Council adopt the revised Article 8 of the Constitution, as set out at Annex A to these minutes.

(iv) That Council adopt the revised functions of the Standards Committee as set out at Annex B.

(v) That provision be included in the Members' Allowances Scheme to withdraw members' allowances during the period a Member is suspended from office as a result of the finding of the Adjudication Panel for England or the Standards Committee that the Member had failed to comply with the Members' Code of Conduct.

REASON: To enable the Standards Committee to comply with the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and to give effect to the recommendations of the Ethical Governance Audit and the Monitoring Officer.

Action Required

1. Refer Part B minute to Council.

GR

C Bainton, Chair

[The meeting started at 3.00 pm and finished at 3.25 pm].