
MEETING	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
DATE	9 MARCH 2007
PRESENT	CHRISTINE BAINTON (INDEPENDENT MEMBER, IN THE CHAIR), I WAUDBY (VICE-CHAIR), SCOTT, LEAMAN (INDEPENDENT MEMBER) AND CRAWFORD (PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER)
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLOR D'AGORNE

PART A - MATTERS DEALT WITH UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

61. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they had in the business on the agenda. No interests were declared.

62. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2007 be approved and signed as a correct record.

63. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's public participation scheme.

64. REVIEW OF WORKPLAN

Members reviewed the workplan for the Standards Committee for the 2006/07 municipal year. It was agreed that the following items be considered at the meeting scheduled for June 2007:

- Presentation on new Committee Management System
- Review of the Complaints Procedure

Members agreed to add an item on the 'Assessment of the impact of the White Paper on Standards Committee' and the workplan was amended to reflect those changes.

65. REVISED MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS

Members considered a report that detailed the proposed changes to the Code of Conduct together with a suggested response to those proposals.

Members were informed that 75% of complaints made to the Standards Board for England were about Parish Councillors and that a Monitoring Officer was only informed about those cases where the Standards Board agreed there was a need to investigate the complaint.

In regard to 'Participation in relation to Prejudicial Interests', it was proposed that a Member having declared a prejudicial interest would be able to make representation and then withdraw from the debate and decision making process. In an effort to ensure an equitable approach across all parties, it had been suggested that Standards Committee would need to agree an annual dispensation including whether or not a Member would need to withdraw from the room during the debate.

In relation to inquorate Parish Council meetings, Members requested written guidance be circulated to all parish councils on what should be said at the meeting and who it should be addressed to.

RESOLVED: That the proposed response to the revised model code of conduct for Local Authority Members be approved for submission to the Department of communities and Local Government

REASON: To ensure the views of members in the York District are forwarded to the Government within the requisite timescale.

PART B – MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

66. ANNUAL REPORT OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE 2006-2007

Members considered a report which set out a review of the work carried out by the Standards Committee at City of York Council during the municipal year 2006/07.

The report detailed that there had been five allegations reported to the Standards Board for England against City of York Council Members during the municipal year 2006/07. On each of those occasions, the Standards Board had determined that no breach of the code had occurred. It was noted that in the case of allegations made against Parish Councils and Parish Councillors, a Monitoring Officer would only be informed when a breach had been determined and an investigation was required.

RECOMMENDED: That the contents of the Annual Report be noted and it be referred to full Council

REASON: To inform Council of the activities of the Standards Committee during the municipal year 2006/07.

C BAINTON

Independent Member, In the Chair

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 10.40 am.

This page is intentionally left blank

2006/07 Workplan for Standards Committee

Ongoing Activities

Cases referred for investigation or determination
 Database of Standards Committee topics
 Standards Board Guidance
 Parish Council Issues
 Member and Officer Training

Programme of New Work

<u>Programme of New Work</u>	<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Communication / Strategic Activity</u>
Confidentiality and Transparency – Conclusions of the Executive on the report of the Scrutiny Panel	26 January 2007	
Amendments to the Members' Code of Conduct	26 January 2007	
Advice to Elected Members re activities during the purdah period	26 January 2007	
Ethical Governance Audit	26 January 2007	
Presentation on new Committee Management System	June 2007	
Annual Report	23 March 2007	
Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life	TBA	
Parish Councils – Good Practice at Meetings	May 2007	
Review of the Complaints Procedure	June 2007	
Employee Code of Conduct – Member/Officer training.	2006/07	

<u>Programme of New Work</u>	<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Communication / Strategic Activity</u>
Full Ethical Audit	2006/07	Yes
Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) – contribution of Standards Committee	TBA (Late 2007)	
Assessment of the impact of the White Paper on Standards Committee	TBA	