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MEETING	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
DATE	19 MAY 2006
PRESENT	MR R MCMEEKING (Chair), MRS R LEAMAN (Independent Members), COUNCILLOR CRAWFORD (Parish Council Member), COUNCILLORS D'AGORNE, HORTON and I WAUDBY (City of York Council).
IN ATTENDANCE	COUNCILLOR MELLORS (Parish Council Substitute Member)

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## **PART A - MATTERS DEALT WITH UNDER DELEGATED POWERS**

### **34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### **35. MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of 24 March 2006 be approved and signed as a correct record.

### **36. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

### **37. REVIEW OF WORKPLAN**

Members reviewed the workplan for the Standards Committee for the 2005/06 municipal year. It was agreed that no changes be made at this stage. The workplan would be reviewed again after appointment of the new membership and Chair of the Committee at Annual Council.

RESOLVED: That the workplan, as set out at Appendix 1 to these minutes, be approved.

### **38. TENTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE**

Members received a report which provided an overview of the Tenth Report by the Committee on Standards in Public Life, published in 2005.

The Committee had examined:

- Appointments and re-appointments to public bodies
- Management and enforcement of codes of conduct
- Whether the Seven Principles of Public Life were being embedded into organisational culture.

The Committee's 38 recommendations were reproduced in Annex A to the report. They included, in particular, proposals to:

- Move to a more locally based system from January 2007
- Strengthen the independent composition of Standards Committees
- Remove unnecessary restrictions on councillors representing their constituents
- Clarify the distinction between private and official conduct..

Members were invited to comment upon recommendations 16 to 33, which dealt specifically with the ethical standards framework for local government and the role of the Standards Committee. They noted that a number of the recommendations had not yet been accepted by the government. These included the recommendations for amendments to the Model Code of Conduct (R24, R25 and R26), and a clear indication was now needed as to when the new Code would be introduced. In relation to R20, it was suggested that information on complaints assessed by the Standards Board as not requiring investigation should be summarised in the Committee's annual report to Council. In relation to R26, it was requested that training on registering interests be provided to both City and Parish councillors, perhaps via a pre-Council seminar and a presentation to the Local Councillors' Association

- RESOLVED:
- (i) That the recommendations in the Tenth Report on Standards in Public Life, attached as Annex A to the report, be noted.
  - (ii) That Officers note the Standards Committee's comments on recommendations 16-33 in Annex A.

### **39. REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

Members received a verbal update from the Monitoring Officer on the review of the Council's Complaints Procedure.

It was reported that, due to staff resources being focused on the review of the Council's Constitution, little progress had been made since the last update. However, the Monitoring Officer had undertaken to prepare a draft report to the next meeting of the Corporate Management Team (CMT). The report would seek CMT's support on prioritising this issue and ask them to decide whether a two or three stage procedure should be adopted and to appoint a named contact for the Chief Executive's department.

Members expressed disappointment at the lack of progress to date and endorsed the action proposed by the Monitoring Officer.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

**40. VOTE OF THANKS TO CHAIR**

Members expressed their thanks to Mr Roger Mc Meeking, who would stand down as Chair of the Standards Committee after the Annual Council meeting on 25 May.

R G MCMEEKING

Chair

[The meeting started at 3.15 pm and finished at 4.30 pm.]