

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

12th February 2008 at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Neale, Titmuss and Worliding, Mr. J. Jones (Chair), Mrs. M. Briggs, Mr. J. Hearnshaw, Mrs. J. Spendley and Ms. S. Wright (Independent Members).

1 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE (REF: 1)

An apology for absence from the meeting was received on behalf of Councillor Dolling.

2 MINUTES (REF: 2.1)

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 7th November 2007 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3 REFERENCES FROM STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND (REF: 7)

The Monitoring Officer orally reported that he had received no notification from the Standards Board for England of any complaints against Members which had been referred for investigation.

Resolved: That the report (Ref: 7) be noted.

4 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION PAPER: ORDERS AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE CONDUCT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS IN ENGLAND (REF: 8)

The Head of Legal Services invited the Committee to respond to a consultation paper issued by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) relating to the proposed detailed arrangements for the operation of the local assessment of complaints made against Members.

He drew Members attention to the suggested response attached at Appendix B to the report (Ref: 8) and invited them to review the proposed response to each question:

Questions	Members comments
1	Amend response ... 'The Committee accept the proposal concerning prohibition of a member'
2	Propose a requirement to inform the other relevant authority of a complaint

3	Response agreed	
4	Response agreed	
5	Response agreed	
6	Response agreed	
7	Response agreed	
8	Response agreed	
9	Suggested addition – where there had been a disproportionate number of decisions to take no action .	
10	'Propose that actual costs be recoverable'	
11	Response Agreed	
12	Response Agreed	Transpose responses 12 and 13
13	Response Agreed	
14	Response Agreed	
15	Response Agreed	
16	Response Agreed	
17	Response Agreed	

Resolved: That Appendix B to the report (Ref: 8) as amended above, be agreed as the response to the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG): Orders and Regulations relating to the conduct of Local Authority Members in England.

(Note: The meeting ended at 6.50 p.m.)