

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

19th March 2007

PRESENT:-

District Council Members

Councillors Lauro and Mrs. Mead (Labour Group) and Councillor Bale (Conservative Group).

Parish Member

Mr. R. Buxton.

Independent Members

Mr. D.R. Williams (Chair) and Mr. T. Thompson.

APOLOGY

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Mr. P. Dawn (Vice Chair) and Mrs. C. Barker (Parish Member).

SC/15. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th February 2007 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

SC/16. **STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2006/07**

The Committee considered its Annual Report for the period 2006/07. The Annual Report covered the following areas of the Committee's responsibilities:-

- Form and Composition.
- Role and Function.
- Officer Support to the Committee.

The report highlighted the following areas of the Committee's work:-

- Amendments to the model Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members.
- Website
- Dispensations
- Update on complaints to the Standards Board for England
- Annual Conference.
- Standards Board for England Guidance and Bulletins.
- Registers of Interest.

The Committee was advised that as its Chair would be unavailable to present its Annual Report to the Meeting of the Council on 19th April 2007, the report would be presented by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

RESOLVED:-

That the Annual Report of the Standards Committee for 2006/07 be submitted to the Meeting of the Council on 19th April 2007.

SC/17. **LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE – REVIEW OF SELF ASSESSMENT**

The Committee considered a report on the Local Code of Corporate Governance – Review of Self Assessment. The purpose of the report was to:-

- Outline the background and process which had lead to the submission of the review of the Self Assessment document.
- Request the Committee to consider the document and report to the Council on the progress made.

Members were advised that a local Code of Corporate Governance had been adopted by the Council at its Meeting on 11th August 2005, at which time it was reported that a Self Assessment Audit had been carried out by Officers to provide evidence on how the Council had fulfilled or intended to fulfil its commitment to Corporate Governance. In approving the Code, the Council had resolved that the Standards Committee should review and report half yearly on the progress made in achieving the action points. The first review had been carried out in July 2006, which had been reported to this Committee.

The Council, at its Annual Meeting on 25th May 2006 had established the Audit Sub-Committee to oversee the authority's Corporate Governance arrangements in relation to financial matters and to review and report progress on achieving the action points. The report contained a self-assessment grid which reflected the following five dimensions identified in the Code:-

- Community Focus.
- Service Delivery.
- Structure and Processes.
- Risk Management and Internal Control.
- Standards of Conduct.

For each of the above five dimensions, the grid listed the following:-

- Specific requirements under the Code.
- The extent to which each of these requirements had been achieved
- Action points still needed to achieve the requirements.
- The dates by which the action points were to be undertaken.
- The lead officer for each action group.

Members were advised that the only item most relevant to the remit of this Committee was the dimension relating to Standards of Conduct.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the Council be recommended to note the progress made so far in achieving the action points set out in the Self Assessment of Performance in the Local Code of Corporate Governance.***
- (2) That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be requested to submit a further report on the progress made on achieving the action points set out in the Self Assessment of Performance in the***

***Local Code of Corporate Governance to a Meeting of the Committee
in the new municipal year 2007/08.***

D. R. WILLIAMS

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 5.50 p.m.