

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

21st February 2002

PRESENT:-

District Council Members

Councillor Rose (Chair) and Councillors Bale and Mrs. Mead.

Parish Members

Mrs. C. Barker and Mr. R. Buxton.

Independent Members

Mr. P. Dawn, Mr. L. Taylor and Mr. D.R. Williams (Vice-Chair).

SC/17. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th January 2002 were received. With regard to the penultimate sentence of Minute No. SC/11(a) relating to the Model Code of Conduct and Co-opted Members, it was agreed that the words 'Site Liaison' be deleted.

With regard to Minute No. SC/15 relating to the conference, it was reported that the Standards Board had now advised that this would be held on 20th May 2002 at the International Conference Centre. Each authority would be limited to three representatives and it had been suggested that these should be the Monitoring Officer, the Chair and an Independent Member.

SC/18. **MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT – PARISH COUNCILS**

(a) Training – 19th February 2002

The Legal and Members' Services Manager reported on the training session given to parish councils in conjunction with the Derbyshire Association of Local Councils on 19th February 2002. Fifteen parish councils within the South Derbyshire District had been represented, together with several parish councils from Erewash and Amber Valley. Mrs. Barker considered that the session had proved very useful and informative but expressed disappointment that a greater number of parish councils had not been represented. The Legal and Members' Services Manager advised that the handout material would be forwarded to those absent parish councils and another training session could be arranged, subject to appropriate demand. In this regard, it was noted that the afternoon session may have restricted some parish councils and accordingly, it was agreed to ask those absent parish councils if they would be interested in attending a further session, maybe at a more convenient time for their purposes. As an alternative, the Legal and Members' Services Manager suggested that Derbyshire Dales District Council was due to hold a training session shortly and could maybe accommodate several parish councils from South Derbyshire. Mrs. Barker also suggested that the invitation should be issued on a broader basis, rather than to the clerk and one councillor.

(b) Comments from Parish Councils

The Committee considered a letter from Repton Parish Council on the Model Code which had been circulated to Members. This was noted and Mrs. Barker expressed concern at the possibility of parish councils ceasing to exist if no Members were prepared to sign up to the Code of Conduct. It was felt necessary to make parish councillors aware of the implications of such actions and hopefully, some fears could be allayed by arranging a further training session, as discussed in the previous item on training.

(c) Recommendation

The Committee considered a recommendation to Parish Councils on the Model Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED:-

That parish councils be recommended to adopt the Model Code of Conduct without amendment.

SC/19. **MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT – DISTRICT COUNCILS**

(a) Training – 26th February 2002

The Legal and Members' Services Manager advised that a training session had been arranged for Members of the District Council. This would be held on 26th February 2002 and would be very similar to the presentation given to parish councils on 19th February 2002.

(b) Recommendation

The Committee considered a recommendation to the District Council on the Model Code of Conduct. Members were reminded that the Standards Board had advised that the Model Code should have included overview and scrutiny provisions, as reported to the last Meeting of the Committee on 24th January 2002.

RESOLVED:-

That, subject to the inclusion of overview and scrutiny provisions, the District Council be recommended to adopt the Model Code of Conduct without amendment.

SC/20. **MONITORING OFFICER**

Following the forthcoming departure of Mr. J. Eatough, the Legal and Members' Services Manager and the Monitoring Officer from the Council's employment, Mr. Eatough advised that the District Council's Deputy Chief Executive, Mr. I. Reid, had been appointed Deputy Monitoring Officer. He would therefore assume the role of Monitoring Officer until the post had been filled and Members took the opportunity to wish Mr. Eatough every success in his future employment.

SC/21. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Meeting would be discussed with the Deputy Monitoring Officer and Members in due course.

C.H. ROSE

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 6.10 p.m.