

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 27 February 2008 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Guest, Heath and Mrs Tyrrell.

Independent representatives: the Venerable M Paget-Wilkes (Chair) and Mr C Purser.

Parish Council representatives: Councillors Mrs A Gordon and M Polgreen.

927. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

928. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2007, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

929. **MEMBERS' REGISTER OF FINANCIAL INTERESTS AND OTHER INTERESTS UNDER THE MANDATORY CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Register containing details of financial and other interests, notified by individual Councillors, was made available for inspection by Members of the Committee.

930. **STANDARDS COMMITTEE TRAINING**

The Committee gave further consideration to training seminars which should be organised for the benefit of the Committee, District, Parish and Town Councillors.

It was agreed that the following seminars should be arranged:

- a) a seminar for the Standards Committee, including substitutes, on the Code of Conduct to be held on 31 March 2008, between 6.00 and 8.00 pm;
- b) a mock hearing for the Standards Committee, including substitutes, based on the new Code of Conduct to be held on 7 April 2008 from 2.30 pm;
- c) a mock hearing for the Standards Committee, including substitutes, based on dispensation to attend meetings, to be held on 10 April 2008 at 2.30 pm; and
- d) a seminar regarding the new Code of Conduct and dispensation to attend meetings, be held for District, Parish and Town Councillors, to be held on 17 April 2008, between 6.00 pm and 8.00 pm.

RESOLVED that arrangements be made for the training to be provided, as agreed.

931. NEW FRAMEWORK FOR DELIVERING GOOD GOVERNANCE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Although not included on the agenda, the Chairman referred to a new framework and guidance on delivering good governance in local government which had been produced by Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLAC). A report would be made to the meeting of the Executive on 25 March 2008 and it was proposed that at the meeting of the Standards Committee meeting on 11 June 2008, it should critically review the Council's Annual Governance Statement together with the review of the effectiveness of the systems of internal audit, and comments from Audit & Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee on these issues.

It was likely that the Standards Committee would have a significant role in the process in future years.

The Committee received copies of the CIPFA Briefing Note on the new framework and it was agreed that the matter should be considered further at the meeting to be held on 16 April 2008, and that the Strategic Director (Community Resources) should be invited to attend the meeting to explain the process further.

In the meantime, it was agreed that copies of the framework and guidance note should be obtained for members of the Committee.

(The meeting ended at 6.50 pm)