

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 16 April 2008, at Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00pm.

PRESENT:

Councillors: Mrs Gallagher, Heath, Mrs McFarland and Mrs Tyrrell.

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

Parish and Town Council representative: Councillors; Mrs Gordon and Polgreen.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Gifford and Mrs Knight.

41. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

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

The register of Members Financial and Other Interests was made available for inspection by the Committee.

43. NEW CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Committee considered a report from the Strategic Director (Community Resources) that set out the new Code of Corporate Governance and the arrangements for the preparation of the Annual Governance Statement.

CIPFA/SOLACE has just issued a new framework and guidance on delivering good governance in local government. It replaces the 2001 guidance and was built on the six core principles set out in the Good Governance Standard for Public Services that were themselves developed from earlier work by Cadbury and Nolan.

The new Code of Corporate Governance, a copy of which was appended to the report, had been recommended to Council and was due for approval by them on 23 April 2008.

In addition to having a Code of Corporate Governance each authority was now required to produce an Annual Governance Statement, which would be published with the accounts.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE MINUTES(Continued)

The Annual Governance Statement would be considered by this Committee for signing off before it is signed by the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive. The Audit & Resources Scrutiny Committee would consider the review of effectiveness of the systems of internal control, which formed part of the Annual Governance Statement, and pass their comment to this Committee to assist them in consideration of the Annual Governance Statement.

An Officer Working Group had been set up to produce the Annual Governance Statement and a reference group had been established to review and provide feedback on the evidence collected by the officer working group.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

44. REVIEW OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE TRAINING

The Committee reviewed the training they had received on the Code of Conduct and hearings on dispensation and discussed the appointment of additional independent and parish/town Council representatives to the Committee to allow for the anticipated number of hearings required.

RESOLVED that

- (1) a work programme for training and governance matters be produced for the Committee:
- (2) the job description for the independent representatives for the Committee be considered at the next meeting of the Committee;
- (3) the Deputy Monitoring Officer progresses the appointment of the additional two Parish/Town Council representatives from the three substitutes.

(The meeting ended at 7.35pm)