

## Standards Committee

Minutes of a Meeting of the Standards Committee held in Committee Room 1 (Fougères Room), Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the **28<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

### **Present:**

Mrs C Vant (Chairman);  
Cllr. Mrs Hawes (Vice-Chairman);

Cllrs. Mrs Blanford, Mrs Laughton.

Mr R Butcher, Mr D Lyward – Parish Council Representatives  
Mr J Dowsey – Independent Member.

### **Apologies:**

Cllrs. Honey, Wood.

Ms J Adams, Mr M Sharpe

### **Also present:**

Deputy Monitoring Officer, Member Services and Scrutiny Support Officer.

## **283 Minutes**

### **Resolved:**

**That the Minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2008 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.**

## **284 Matter Referred for Local Investigation – Case SBE 19762.07**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer explained that the matter had been referred by the Standards Board for England for investigation. He also explained the procedure and that the investigation had been undertaken by an external investigator, who had found no breach of the relevant Code of Conduct

The Committee were asked to decide whether it accepted the Investigator's findings that there has been no failure to comply with the relevant Code of Conduct or whether the matter should be considered at a Hearing of the Standards Committee.

## **285 Exclusion of the Public**

It was suggested that the Committee should consider the Investigator's findings, about an allegation of a breach of the Code of Conduct, in private. The Deputy Monitoring Officer provided his reasons for suggesting that the pre-hearing stage be held in private to protect the identity and sensitive personal details of individuals concerned. (Where a case proceeded to a full hearing there was an expectation of this being held in public.)

### **Resolved:**

**That pursuant to Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item namely Matter Referred for Local Investigation – Case SBE 19762.07 as it was likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure of exempt information hereinafter specified by reference to Paragraph 7c of Schedule 12A of the Act (as modified in relation to the Local Determination by the Standards Committee).**

## **286 Matter Referred for Local Investigation – Case SBE 19762.07 (Continued)**

The Deputy Monitoring Officer and Committee discussed the report and considered specific paragraphs within the report that supported the findings of the Investigating Officer.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer brought the key points in the report to the attention of the Committee. The Committee discussed the issues, gave their observations on the investigation and contents of the exempt report.

### **Resolved:**

**That the Standards Committee accepts the findings in the Investigator's report that there had been no failure to comply with Paragraphs 9 and 12 of the Council's Code of Conduct.**

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Queries concerning these minutes? Please contact Hayley Curd:  
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