

## SELBY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the Standards Committee held on Monday 21 January 2008, in Committee Room 2, The Civic Centre, Portholme Road, Selby, commencing at 5:00 pm.

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629	Membership
630	Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
631	Sixth Annual Assembly of Standards Committees
632	Orders and Regulations relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members in England
633	Private Session
634	Current Investigations

Present: Miss B Potts in the Chair

B Crossdale (Parish Council representative) and J Stell (Independent member).

Officials: Head of Service – Legal and Democratic Services, Democratic Services Officer and Committee Administrator

Public: 0

Press: 0

### 626 **Apologies for Absence**

No apologies for absence were received.

### 627 **Disclosure of Interest**

None.

### 628 **Minutes**

#### **Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 24 September 2007 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chair.**

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## **Membership**

The Head of Service – Legal and Democratic Services reported that Mr B Crossdale had been re-elected as the Parish Council representative on the Committee and that Mr R Parker had been elected as his deputy.

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## **Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007**

Members received the report of the Head of Service – Legal and Democratic Services on the main provisions in Part 10 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 so far as it related to the work of the Standards Committee. More cases would be dealt with at local level, which could mean an increase in the workload of Standard Committees and Monitoring Officers.

The new local arrangements would include:

- receipt of allegations of a breach of the Code of Conduct;
- the initial assessment of allegations (known as the “local filter”) to determine the appropriate course of action;
- investigation of allegations;
- mediation and other arrangements;
- referral to the Standards Board where appropriate;
- the local determination of the vast majority of complaints; and referring serious matters to the SBE for consideration by the Adjudication Panel for England.

**Resolved:**

**That the report be noted.**

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## **Sixth Annual Assembly of Standards Committee**

Members received the report of the Head of Service – Legal and Democratic Services with a summary of the sessions held at the Sixth Annual Assembly.

**Resolved:**

**That the report be noted.**

## **Orders and Regulations relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members in England**

Members received the report of the Head of Service – Legal and Democratic Services with regard to responding to the Government's consultation paper.

Part 10 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (the 2007 Act) provided a revised ethical conduct regime for local government based on the principle of proportionate decision-making on conduct issues by local authorities.

The Members responded to the questions in the consultation paper and the Head of Service – Legal and Democratic Services would report on these to the Policy and Resources Committee and forward them to the DCLG (Department for Communities and Local Government) by Friday 15 February 2008.

### **Resolved:**

- (a) That the Committee agrees with the proposals as set out in questions (1) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (12) (13) and (16);**
- (b) That with regard to question (2) the Committee is of the opinion that there should be an adjudication role for the Standards Board;**
- (c) That whilst the Committee supports the proposals set out in question (10) it would wish to see fees set at a level which would recover costs only;**
- (d) The Committee feels it would benefit from joint working with other authorities as proposed in question (11);**
- (e) With regard to question (14) although the Committee had not had recourse to use the existing dispensation regulations it was happy with the new arrangements proposed;**
- (f) The Committee felt that it was the responsibility of Selby District Council to comment on question (15).**

### **Private Session**

**That in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, the meeting be not open to the Press and public during consideration of the following items as there will be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in Section 100(1) of the Act as described in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.**

## **Current Investigations**

The Head of Service – Legal and Democratic Services updated members on the current investigations being undertaken.

### **Resolved:**

**That the current investigations outlined by the Head of Service – Legal and Democratic Services be noted.**

The meeting closed at 5:40 pm.