

SELBY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the STANDARDS COMMITTEE held on 29 January 2007, in Committee Room 3, The Civic Centre, Portholme Road, Selby, commencing at 4.00 pm.

1447	Appointment of the Chair to the Standards Committee
1448	Chairman's Introductions
1449	Minutes
1450	Code of Conduct Matters
1451	Local Government Public Involvement in Health Bill 2006
1452	Consultation on Amendments to the Model Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members
1453	Dates and Times of Future Meetings of the Standards Committee

Present: Miss B Potts in the Chair.

Committee members Councillor Ms M Davis, Councillor C Lunn, Mr B Crossdale (Parish Council representative) and Mr J Stell (independent member).

Officials: Head of Service – Legal and Democratic Services and Democratic Services Officer

1445 **Apologies for Absence**

None received.

1446 **Disclosure of Interest**

None declared.

1447 **Appointment of the Chair to the Standards Committee**

The Head of Service – Legal and Democratic Services informed the Committee that under Section 7 of the Selby District Council Constitution, the Committee was required to elect a new Chair every three years.

Resolved:

That Miss B Potts be reappointed as Chair of the Standards Committee for a period of three years ending on 31 January 2010.

1448 **Chairman's Introductions**

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting.

1449 **Minutes**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 30 May 2006 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chair.

1450 **Code of Conduct Matters**

The Head of Service – Legal and Democratic Services presented a report to the Committee outlining proposals and developments in relation to code of conduct issues.

The Head of Service - Legal and Democratic Services suggested that the Committee receive a report at each meeting on any allegations concerning local councillors made to the Standards Board. The Committee was also informed that there was a possible requirement to hear locally any alleged breaches of the code of conduct.

Resolved that:

- (i) A report detailing new referrals of Selby District and Parish Councillors to the Standards Board concerning compliance with the code of conduct be brought to each meeting of the Standards Committee;**
- (ii) The Committee note the referrals to the Standards Board for England; and**
- (iii) The Committee note the possible requirement to hear locally an alleged breach of the code of conduct.**

1451

Local Government Public Involvement in Health Bill 2006

The Head of Service – Legal and Democratic Services outlined to the Committee the proposals in the Bill that would have an impact on the Committee.

The amendments were mainly concerned with the following:

- the principles governing the conduct of councillors and the fact that the provisions of the code were not limited to councillors' conduct in their official capacity; and
- to provide for local Standards Committees to take on the role currently exercised by the Standard Board in terms of assessing written allegations of misconduct

Resolved:

That the provisions of the Bill in so far as they relate to the code of conduct and the Standards Committee be noted.

1452

Consultation on Amendments to the Model Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members

Councillors received the report of the Head of Service – Legal and Democratic Services summarising proposed amendments to the Model Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members in the Local Government Public Involvement in Health Bill 2006.

As part of a consultation exercise by the Department for Communities and Local Government, Standards Committees were being asked to comment on these proposed amendments by 9 March 2007.

A discussion of the proposed amendments took place in order to enable the comments of the Committee to be taken to the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee.

Resolved that:

- (i) **A report be presented to the Policy and Resources Committee on 6 March 2007, detailing the comments made by the Committee; and**
- (ii) **If approved, those comments be submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government.**

1453

Dates and Times of Future Meetings of the Standards Committee

The Committee discussed the dates and times of future meetings of the Standards Committee.

Resolved:

That the Standards Committee be held in future on a Monday at 4.00pm, with the date of the next meeting being 12 March 2007.

The meeting closed at 5:15pm.