

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

JANUARY 2005 - DECEMBER 2005

1 18 January 2005 Meeting

- 1.1 Mr Peter Flamank from PricewaterhouseCoopers gave a presentation on the successful outcome of the Annual Audit of the Council by PricewaterhouseCoopers, which was its nominated external auditor.
- 1.2 The Director of Law and Administration updated the Committee on the report that would be presented to the Cabinet on indemnities for Members and officers.
- 1.3 The Committee considered a report on the Local Authorities (Code of Conduct) (Local Determination) (Amendment) Regulations 2004, which set out implications and recommended a model procedure for local investigations, as from 4 November 2004 the Standards Board was able to refer complaints of Member misconduct to the Monitoring Officer for local investigation. The Committee agreed to the procedure attached to the report, subject to some amendments.
- 1.4 The Committee adopted an amended procedure for local standards hearings for adoption by the Standards Committee, subject to some amendments.
- 1.5 Judicial Review Case - Dawkins v. Bolsover District Council - the Committee noted the outcome of the judicial review concerning a Standard Committee hearing that had not considered a complaint referred to it within a three month period. In Councillor Dawkins' case it could not be said that the reasons for the delay for the hearing could be waived.
- 1.6 The Annual Report of the Standards Committee, which highlighted the Committee's work from January 2004 to December 2004, was submitted to the Council at its meeting held on 19 January 2005.

2 25 May 2005 Meeting

- 2.1 The Committee noted that Sir Michael Ridley was the Chairman and Mrs Jennifer Ware was the Vice-Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.

3 9 June 2005 Meeting

- 3.1 Mrs Moyra McGarvey, Head of Internal Audit and Risk Management, gave a presentation on the Council's internal audit team's work.
- 3.2 The Committee considered the consultation document on "A Code for the Future - an introduction to the review of the Code of Conduct for Members". The Council, through the Administration Committee, had submitted a response to it and as an independent body, the Standards Committee also sent a response.

4 19 October 2005 Meeting

- 4.1 The Committee considered the report on the analysis of the Code of Conduct, which highlighted the responses received relating to the consultation, and the recommendations submitted to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister by the Standards Board for England.
- 4.2 The Chairman and Vice-Chairman each attended a one day session of the fourth Annual Assembly of the Standards Board for England on 5 September (Chairman) and 6 September (Vice-Chairman) in Birmingham and reported back to the Committee on the event. The Chairman had attended Mrs Edila's session on Alternative Action regarding complaints.
- 4.3 A report on the training needs of Councillors in relation to the Code of Conduct was considered.
- 4.4 The Register of Interests and the register containing details of Councillors' gifts and hospitality were considered.

5 Standard Items

- 5.1 The Committee considered standard items throughout the year, which included the changes to the Council's Constitution and the Standard Board's Bulletins.