

REPORT OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE

GENERAL REPORT

This report summarizes the business transacted at the Standards committee held on 23rd October 2006. The recently appointed Director of Customer, Democratic and Legal Services and Monitoring Officer, Andrew Docherty, was introduced to the Committee.

Standards Sub-Committee

We discussed the role of the Standards Sub-Committee to review the Register of Interests and the gifts and hospitality register, for both Borough and Parish Councillors and agreed that the Membership of the Sub-Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year be Mr Tony Ellwood, Rev John Cree and Councillor Thomas Bedford, Reserve Member Councillor Thomas McGowan. The next meeting of the Sub-Committee would be held on 30 November 2006.

Annual Assembly of Standards Committees

We discussed the business undertaken at the recent Annual Assembly of Standards Committees that took place in Birmingham, including the local Government White Paper, proposed filter arrangements to deal with allegations of complaints, separate Sub-Committees to deal with referrals and hearings and training for Standards Committees, Councillors and Parish Councillors.

We were advised that training would be provided on the revised Code of Conduct once it was adopted. We agreed to investigate the possibility of holding the Standards Committee in a Parish to raise awareness and that the suggestion that members of the Standards Committee attend meetings of Parish Councils and give a short talk on Standards issues be considered further.

Information about Local Hearings

We watched a DVD entitled "Going Local - Investigations and Hearings" made by the Standards Board for England. We noted that the DVD was informative and a good training tool.

MR RA ELLWOOD
CHAIR OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE

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There are no background papers to this report.