

REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

GENERAL REPORT

1. This report sets out a brief summary of the main items considered at the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 3 September 2007.

REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION FROM MEMBERS OF CHORLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

2. We considered a request for a dispensation from Members of Chorley Borough Council allowing participation in Council meetings at which matters relating to the concessionary travel scheme are discussed.
3. The Monitoring Officer reported that at a recent Council meeting a notice of motion had been considered relating to the concessionary travel scheme. As over half of the Councillors would have a personal and potentially a prejudicial interest the item was adjourned.
4. We noted that there was a need to have regard to the request for the dispensation, the reasons for the request and the fact that, in the absence of a dispensation, Council business would be impeded.
5. We agreed that a dispensation be granted to the 24 Members of the Council who had applied for a dispensation allowing participation in Council meetings at which matters relating to the concessionary travel scheme are to be discussed.

UPDATE ON ADOPTION OF THE REVISED CODE OF CONDUCT BY PARISH COUNCILS

6. The Monitoring Officer advised that seventeen of the twenty-three Parish Councils within the Borough had adopted the Revised Code of Conduct. This information would be published in the local press, as required by the Regulations surrounding the adoption of a Revised Code of Conduct.

APPOINTMENT OF RESERVE PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER

7. We considered the appointment of Parish Council reserve member for the Standards Committee.
8. A Parish Council representative was required to be in attendance if the Committee were considering items relating to Parish Councils. In the event of the Parish Council member having a personal interest in an item it was desirable to have a reserve member to stand in their place.

9. The Regulations require consultation with the Parish Councils on the appointment of Parish Council representatives and a request had been made to the Lancashire Association of Parish and Town Councils to nominate a reserve.
10. We noted that when the local filtering arrangements came into force there may be a need to increase the number of Committee Members, as it appears that there may then need to be three Sub-Committees, to filter, determine and appeal. The Committee will make recommendations to the Council on this issue in due course.
11. We agreed that Parish Councillor Alan Cornwell from Charnock Richard Parish Council be appointed as the Parish Council reserve member.

RECOMMENDATION

12. The Council is recommended to note the report.

MR RA ELLWOOD
CHAIR OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE

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There are no background papers to this report.