

Report of	Meeting	Date
Corporate Director of Governance	Standards Committee	30 November 2007

ADJUDICATION PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To consider the recommendations of the Adjudication Panel made following the appeal to them against a decision of the Standards Committee in respect of two members of Wheelton Parish Council.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That the actions taken be noted and a copy of this report be forwarded to the Standards Board.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the central Lancashire sub region		Improved access to public services	
Improving equality of opportunity and life chance		Develop the character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	
Involving People in their Communities		Ensure Chorley is a performing Organisation	√

BACKGROUND

- On the 20th March 2007 the Committee censured two members of Wheelton Parish Council and required them to send an apology to the Clerk in respect of their failure to declare a personal interest at a meeting of the Council. As has previously been reported to the Committee the Councillors appeal to the Adjudication Panel against that decision was not upheld. The Adjudication Panel's written decision states:

"The Appeals Tribunal strongly suggests that the Appellants and possibly all of the Councillors for Wheelton Parish Council receive training on the Code of Conduct".

- The Standards Board is of the understanding that this is a formal recommendation under section 80 of the Local Government Act 2000. Where a recommendation is made under that section either the relevant full Council or the Standards Committee has to consider the recommendations and report to the Standards Board on actions. It is perhaps debatable whether this is actually a recommendation under section 80 since it is not explicit in the Adjudication Panel decision that this is intended to so nor is it explicit as to which "relevant authority" (either the Borough or Parish Council) the recommendation is addressed. In this case both the Borough Council and Parish Council are relevant authorities.

6. Nevertheless action has been taken which under the Standards Committee work programme which seems to address the Adjudication Panel's suggestion and which can be reported to the Board. In particular as Members of the Committee know a training session was held on the 19 September to which all Parish Councillors were invited. Two members of Wheelton Parish Council attended although not the two members who were the subject of the hearing. A training session has also been provided for Parish Clerks and was attended by the Clerk to Wheelton Parish Council. A number of guidance notes have been provided to the Parish Councils and, of course, the Parish Council mentoring scheme has been initiated. Under that scheme the Chair of the Standards Committee will be acting as the mentor to Wheelton Parish Council.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

7. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Corporate Directors' comments are included:

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal	√	No significant implications in this area	

ANDREW DOCHERTY
CORPORATE DIRECTOR GOVERNANCE

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
A. Docherty	5102	16 th November 2007	***