

# STANDARDS COMMITTEE AGENDA



**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2006**

**at 4.00 pm**

**in Committee Room "C"**

MEMBERS: STANDARDS COMMITTEE:

Councillors Brash, Griffin, Iseley, J Marshall, Morris, Preece and Shaw

Co-opted Members: Mr K Fisher, Mr B Gray, 1 Vacancy

Parish Councillor Miss Pauline Booth, Dalton Piercy Parish Council

Parish Councillor Mrs B Bird (For Information Only)

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

**3. MINUTES**

3.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2006 2006 (attached)

**4. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

4.1 Presentation – Update on Ethical Standards – Chief Solicitor

**5. ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT**

# STANDARDS COMMITTEE

## MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

20<sup>th</sup> June, 2006

### Present:

Councillor Mr B Gray (In the Chair)

Councillors Brash, Griffin, Dr Morris, Preece and Shaw

Independent Members: Mr Keith Fisher and Miss Pauline Booth, Parish Council Representative

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted from Councillors Iseley and J Marshall.

### 2. Declarations of interest by members

None

### 3. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2006

Confirmed.

### 4. Appointment of Independent Members – *Chief Solicitor*

The Chief Solicitor advised that the Standards Committee are responsible for the process, up to interview, of independent persons as members of the Standards Committee and the Independent Remuneration Panel. The Council are responsible for making any appointment.

The Committee were reminded that a vacancy exists for an independent person on both the Standards Committee and the Independent Remuneration Panel. An advertisement for applications/nominations had been inserted in the Hartlepool Mail and the Chief Solicitor advised no applications had been received to date but he would continue to make efforts to fill the vacancies.

During discussion the Committee agreed that the Chief Solicitor would take the following action:

- Advise Co-opted Members and Resident Representatives currently serving on Council Committees/Forums of the vacancy and what it would entail;
- Contact other local authorities in the area to enquire about their practices in relation to payment of expenses/allowances.

## **5. Standards Board for England training material – Chief Solicitor**

The Committee viewed a DVD that had recently been published by the Standards board showing the processes involved in local investigation and determination of a complaint of breach of the Code of Conduct for Councillors. A video that had previously been issued by the Standard Committee dealing with the Code of Conduct was also shown.

The Committee indicated that they had found both items interesting and informative and would welcome a mock event at some time in the future. The Committee noted that a sub-committee (either 3 or 5) of the Committee would conduct any hearings.

## **6. Standards Board for England Bulletin – Chief Solicitor**

The Committee received a copy of the Bulletin issued by the Standards Board which provided the latest news, features and guidance on the Code of Conduct and the work of the Standards Board for England. The report outlined the contents. The Chief Solicitor advised that in view of its relevance to Council Members generally a copy of the Bulletin would be forwarded to all Members of the Council for their information.

B GRAY

CHAIRMAN