

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Conference Room 1,
Council Offices,
Spennymoor.

Wednesday,
10th April 2002

Time : 2.00 p.m.

Present: Mr. L. Petterson (Chairman and Independent member) and
Councillor Mrs. A.M. Armstrong, G.F. Chaplin, D.M. Fraser
B. Meek and Mrs. A.D. Mumford.

Independent member

Mr. C. Greenwell

Parish/Town Council member

Councillor J. Marr

ST.1/01 PART III OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000

The Committee considered a report of the Solicitor and Monitoring Officer in relation to Part III of the Local Government Act 2000. (For copy see file of Minutes).

It was noted that the purpose of the report was to introduce members of the Committee to the scope and remit of the Standards Committee which had been established in accordance with Part III of the Local Government Act 2000, to outline the responsibilities of the Council, individual Members and the Monitoring Officer, and to appraise Members of the action proposed to be taken regarding the adoption of a Local Code, the provision of assistance, advice and training, and arrangements for the co-ordination of appropriate steps between the Council and the Parish and Town Councils, for which the Committee would also be responsible.

The Council was due to approve its constitutional arrangements at the Council meeting on the 24th May 2002. Article 9 of the Constitution, currently in draft form, set out the arrangements for the composition, membership, role and function of the Standards Committee.

The current Committee had operated in shadow form since the Council undertook to bring in arrangements for the creation of its own Standards Committee, in accordance with the new ethical framework, introduced by the Government.

The Council had established a Standards Committee in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, whose first task was to include making recommendations to the Council about the adoption of a Local Code of Conduct. Membership of the Committee was

composed of one Cabinet Member, four non-Cabinet Members, two Independent Members and one Member of a Parish/Town Council. The Parish Member would need to be present when matters relating to Parish and Town Councils, or their members, were being considered. The Committee was to be chaired by an independent member.

Reference was made to the attached Appendix to the report which set out the Monitoring Officer's guidance for Members and Parish and Town Clerks and the Local Codes of Conduct and Members' interests – Part III – Local Government Act 2000, together with the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) (England) Order 2001, and Parish Councils (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2001.

- RECOMMENDED:**
1. *That the report be received.*
 2. *That the Model Code of Conduct, as set out in the Regulations (S.I. 3575 of 2001) be recommended to Council.*
 3. *That the Model Code of Conduct, as set out in the Regulations (S.I. 3576 of 2001) be recommended to Parish and Town Councils within the Borough.*
 4. *That the actions of the Monitoring Officer, as described in paragraphs 3 to 6 of the report: to accept the recommendations to publish the registers of members' interests and gifts/hospitality on the Council's official website, be approved.*

Confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting dated 4th September 2002.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection, etc., in relation to these Minutes and associated papers should contact Robert A. Ludlow, Spennymoor (01388) 816166, Ext. 4240.