

## City of Durham

At a Meeting of the **STANDARDS COMMITTEE** held in the Town Hall, Durham, on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2008, at 5.30 p.m.

**Present:** Mr B.R.J. Ingleby (in the Chair)  
and Councillors Holland, Lodge, Simpson and Turnbull (City Council Members)  
and Councillors J.S. Anderson and Mrs P Hudson (Parish Council Members)

### **189. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs T Naples and Mr D Hollingworth.

### **190. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2008, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **191. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest from Members.

#### **Report of Monitoring Officer**

### **192. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION**

The Committee received information from the Monitoring Officer in respect of a request by a number of members of West Rainton & Leamside Parish Council for a dispensation in accordance with the Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee)(Dispensation) Regulations 2002. The Committee were of the opinion that they had been provided with insufficient information to be able to make a decision at this time and accordingly the request should be deferred.

**Resolved:** That the Monitoring Officer seek further information and the request be deferred until the next meeting.

### **193. COMPLAINTS TO THE STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND**

#### **(a) SBE19601 & SBE 19602.08**

The complainant had withdrawn from the mediation process and it was recommended that no further action be taken in respect of this matter.

**Resolved:** That the report be noted

#### **(b) SBE21948 – SBE21953.08**

The above complaint was still with the investigating officer, whose report would be forwarded to the committee for consideration as soon as was available.

**Resolved:** That the report be noted

### **194. COMPLAINTS TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

The Monitoring Officer updated the committee in respect of all ongoing complaints to the Standards Committee and confirmed that full details of each complaint would be reported as appropriate once they had concluded.

**Resolved:** That the report be noted.

#### **195. LOCAL STANDARDS FRAMEWORK**

The Monitoring Officer had received four copies of the Local Standards Framework: Guide for Authorities.

**Resolved:** That copies of the Local Standards Framework: Guide for Authorities be distributed to the Chair and Vice Chair or the committee and the Monitoring Officer. A further copy is to be retained by the Monitoring Officer and made available to other Members of the Committee upon request to the Monitoring Officer.

#### **196. INVITATION TO JOIN AIMSce**

The Monitoring Officer had received an invitation from the Association of Independent Members of Standards Committees in England for independent members of the Standards Committee to join AIMSce. Members were of the opinion that they knew insufficient about this organisation to judge whether the membership would be worthwhile and therefore the Vice Chair of the Committee should approach the AIMSce stand at the Standards Committee Conference to determine whether the membership would be worthwhile prior to a decision being made.

**Resolved:** That the matter be deferred to the next meeting

#### **197. BULLETIN 40**

Bulletin 40 from the Standards Board for England was circulated for information.

**Resolved:** That the Bulletin be noted.

#### **198. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Monitoring Officer had received a further email from Mr Malcolm Stabler again seeking to challenge the accuracy of the Minutes of the Standards Committee meetings on the 5 March 2008.

**Resolved:** That Members were satisfied with the Minutes of the Standards Committee as approved and were not prepared to consider further correspondence from Mr Stabler in respect of the accuracy or the content of the Minutes of the Committee.

The meeting terminated at 6.15 p.m.

Chairman