

Meeting of the **STANDARDS COMMITTEE** of the Teesdale District
Council held at Teesdale House, Galgate, Barnard Castle on
WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER 2008 AT 2.00PM

PRESENT:

District Council Representatives: *PM Charlton, K Coates, DH Reed, MWL Hamilton*

Independent Members: *J Hughes (Chair), TJ Lewis*

Parish Council Representatives

J Blissett, R Thompson

Apologies for absence:

Apologies of absence were received from PD Austin, Councillor DAR Forster and C West

Officers in Attendance: M Dennis (Chief Governance Officer - Monitoring Officer) and G Robinson (Democratic Services Officer).

7 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of Interest.

8 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 11 June 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

9 REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

The Chief Governance Officer (Monitoring Officer) presented an update report for consideration by members.

(A) Membership Update:

Full Council on 30 June 2008, approved the recommendation that Councillor Carole West, a member of Cockfield Parish Council, be appointed as a Parish Council representative on the Standards Committee. The Committee now has the recommended minimum number of independent and parish members, three of each to deal with local management of complaints. A consequence of this was that the committee now has less than the required 25% of its membership as independent members: Councillor M Clark had volunteered to stand down from the committee, which has restored the 25% requirement.

(B) Local Management of Complaints

The Chief Governance Officer informed members that a notice publicising the revised procedure for making complaints against members has been made available on the Councils website and in the local newspaper and also a copy of the complaints form had been circulated to all District Councillors and Parish Councils within Teesdale. The Chief Governance Officer presented statistics which had been prepared by the Standards Board following the first quarterly return of complaints information. Outline

information was given by the Chief Governance Officer of an informal complaint which he had dealt with.

(C) Consultation: Code of Conduct for Local Authority members and Employees

The Communities and Local Government Department have issued a consultation document which invites views on proposals for revising the members' code of conduct and the proposed introduction of a model code of conduct for local government employees. Appendix A to the consultation listed questions which members considered and agreed responses to.

RESOLVED:

That the Chief Governance Officer be authorised to submit a response in accordance with the views expressed in the meeting.

(D) Standards Board for England Bulletin, 39(June 2008) 40(August 2008)

The Monitoring Officer circulated the two most recent Standards Board for England bulletins which focused on Local Assessments and the monitoring of the first quarterly returns. Due to the introduction of local assessment, information on statistics will be reported differently.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

3 December 2008

The Meeting closed at 2.45pm

GR/MD

CHAIRMAN