

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Thursday, 10 February 2005

2.00 p.m.

Council Chamber,
Council Offices, Spennymoor

AGENDA and REPORTS

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To notify the Chairman of any items that appear later in the agenda in which you may have an interest.

3. MINUTES

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2004. (Pages 1 - 2)

4. STANDARDS TRAINING UPDATE

Oral report of the Council's Monitoring Officer.

- 21st January 2005: Standards Event organised by Durham City Council/Wragge and Co: to receive an oral report from Ian Jamieson who attended.
- Planned Member Training by Monitoring Officer: -
 - Standards Update on recent changes, etc to be held on 24th February, 23rd March and 8th April 2005, in each instance at 9.30 a.m. in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Spennymoor.
- Other Events: -

Standards Board:

- 26th May 2005 : Newcastle : 3 places booked (Chair, Monitoring Officer, plus 1).
- 5th and 6th September 2005 : Fourth Annual Assembly of Standards Committees, Birmingham.

5. COUNTY DURHAM MONITORING OFFICERS GROUP

To receive an oral report from the Monitoring Officer.

6. SUMMARY OF THE CHANGES TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITY) REGULATIONS 2000

To consider the attached report of the Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer. (Pages 3 - 6)

7. INTRODUCTION OF CHANGES TO THE ETHICAL STANDARDS ARRANGEMENTS UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 - THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (CODE OF CONDUCT) (LOCAL DETERMINATION) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2004 AND THE STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND (FUNCTIONS) ORDER 2004

To consider the attached report of the Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer and receive a slide presentation. (Pages 7 - 10)

8. ARRANGEMENTS FOR REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

To consider the attached report of the Chief Executive Officer. (Pages 11 - 22)

9. PROPOSALS FOR LARGE SCALE VOLUNTARY TRANSFER OF COUNCIL HOUSING STOCK

To receive an oral report of the Councils Monitoring Officer regarding the attached reports from the Council's external legal advisers for Members prepared by Trowers and Hamlins:

(a) Conflict of Interest In Decision Making Arrangements

(b) LSVT Consultation: Further Guidance to Members

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7th April 2005 at 2.00 p.m. in Conference room 1, Council Offices, Spennymoor.

11. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

Members are respectfully requested to give the Chief Executive Officer notice of items they would wish to raise under the heading not later than 12 noon on the day preceding the meeting, in order that consultation may take place with the Chairman who will determine whether the item will be accepted.

N. Vaulks
Chief Executive Officer

Council Offices
SPENNYMOOR
2nd February 2005

L. Petterson (Chairman)

Councillors Mrs. B. Graham, A. Gray, Mrs. L. Hovvels, G.M.R. Howe and J. Wayman J.P

Councillor J. Marr (Spennymoor Town Council)

Mr I. Jamieson (Independent Member)

Background Documents:

List of written advice issued by the Monitoring Officer since the previous meeting:

- MO44 - Update of distribution information
- MO45 - Standards Board Guidance, Lobby Groups and Dual-Hatted Members
- MO46 - To Standards Committee: Local Determinations by Monitoring Officers
- MO47 - Summary of Guidance for Members from the Standards Board
- MO48 - Summary of Guidance from Standards Board to Local Authorities Generally
- MO49 - Presentation, including slides prepared by Monitoring Officer on new arrangements for local investigations of members (first reported to Cabinet on the 9th December 2004)
- MO50 - Notification to all members: bi-annual reminder to review registers of interests and gifts and hospitality
- MO51 - Members Standards: Update/Training Forum
- MO52 - Standards Board Bulletin
- MO53 - Advice to Cabinet/Shadow Board: LSVT Proposed Housing Transfer

- MO/SBC29 - Advice to officers regarding the impact of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004
- MO/SBC30 - Qualified persons for the purposes of Section 36 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection in relation to this Agenda and associated papers should contact **Miss. Sarah Billingham, Spennymoor 816166, Ext 4240**