

Item 2

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE (SPECIAL MEETING)

Council Chamber,
Council Offices,
Spennymoor

Friday,
27 April 2007

Time: 1.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor L. Petterson (Chairman) and

Councillors Mrs. B. Graham, Mrs. C. Sproat and J. Wayman J.P

Parish/Town Council member

Councillor J. Marr

Apologies: Councillors A. Gray and Mrs. L. Hovvels

Independent Member

Mr. I. Jamieson

ST.40/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs. C. Sproat declared a personal interest in Item 3 as she was a Member of the Employment Issues Panel.

ST.41/06 ARRANGEMENTS FOR REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

NB. In accordance with Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Members' Code of Practice of Conduct, Councillor Mrs C. Sproat declared a personal interest in the above item and remained in the meeting as an observer.

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive, which detailed the need to continually review the Constitution to ensure that it reflected existing law and its operational continued to provide an efficient and effective framework on the delivery of the Council's aims and objectives. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Member's attention was drawn to the proposed changes to the Constitution outlined in the report.

Discussion was held regarding the process of the Employment Issues Panel, specifically who made the final decision and what procedures were in place for grievance and appeals. It was explained that the Chief Executive would make recommendations to the Panel, however, the final decision would be made by the Employment Issues Panel. With regard to appeals and grievance, it was explained that there was no appeals procedure as such as discussions would have been held prior to attendance at the Panel. Any grievance would need to be considered in detail, following the procedure adopted by the Council.

RECOMMENDED : *That the Council be recommended to approve the amendments set out in the Appendix and direct the Council's Monitoring Officer to :*

- a. Amend the Constitution accordingly and make all necessary and consequential amendments.*
- b. To publish an amended version on the Council's website.*

ST.42/06

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REVISED MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS

Consideration was given to a report of the Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer detailing the implementation of the revised Model Code of Conduct for Members. (For copy see file of Minutes).

It was explained that the revised Code of Conduct would come into force on 3rd May, 2007. Local authorities would have six months to adopt the Code, however, after October, 2007 it would apply automatically.

Member's attention was drawn to the main changes outlined in the report.

- RECOMMENDED :*
- 1. That the report be noted.*
 - 2. That by approval of full Council on 29th June, 2007, the revised Code of Conduct be adopted unamended; that the Council adopts the ten General Principles as an annex to the new Code; that Parish and Town Councils be advised to do likewise.*
 - 3. That consequential changes be made to the Council's Constitution.*

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection, etc., in relation to these Minutes and associated papers should contact Miss S. Billingham, Tel 01388 816166 Ext 4240, sbillingham@sedgefield.gov.uk