

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE
11 OCTOBER 2005**

Present: Independent members: -
Mr V Kempner (in the Chair)
Mrs S Fellows
Councillors Bigg, Bird, Daniel, Hancock and Lock

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 2005 be approved and signed by the chair as a correct record.

4. UPDATE ON THE REVIEW OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS

The Borough Solicitor presented a report on the Standards Board recommendations to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister regarding amendment of the Code of Conduct for Members.

The Board's recommendations to Ministers were summarised in the report. The full text was appended to the report.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Borough Solicitor submitted a report as a basis for discussion with a view to giving guidance to members.

The Standards Board for England had reported that in the period September 2003 to March 2005 of the 102 cases referred to local Standards Committees for adjudication, 57 of the cases related to an alleged failure by a member to declare a personal or prejudicial interest. This seemed to indicate that the area of the Code giving members the greatest difficulty was that of declaration of interest. The report set out the definition of personal and prejudicial interests as set out in the Code.

Members were asked to consider the training given and if training should be provided on the particular issue of declarations of interest. They considered that it would be helpful if written guidance on declarations of interest were to be provided as part of Committee agendas. The Borough Solicitor's report should form the basis of training for Councillors on Declarations of interest. The Committee also recommended that two days of intensive training on the Code of Conduct, declarations of Interest, equalities etc. should be provided for Councillors within a month of the elections taking place.

RESOLVED that the report and the comments of the Standards Committee members be noted.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.58 pm)