

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE
28 FEBRUARY 2006**

Present: Independent members: -
Mr V Kempner (in the Chair)
Mrs S Fellows

Councillors Bigg, Bird, Brown, Daniel, and Lock

Also in attendance for the Part 2 item were Councillors Hancock and Wilson, David Powell the Investigating Officer and Trevor Scott the legal advisor.

6. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2006 be approved and signed by the chair as a correct record.

7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Councillor declared his interest in the minute indicated: -

Councillor	Minute	Interest
Hancock	10(E) – Investigation Under Standards Board Ref SBE 12325.05	Personal – As the complainant the result would have an effect on his wellbeing

8. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED – that the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the item of business listed below because it is likely that, if members of the public were present, there would be disclosure to them of “exempt” information as defined in the paragraphs of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

Minute No.	Subject Matter	Paragraph No.
10(E)	Investigation Under Standards Board Ref SBE 12325.05	19

9. REVIEW OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT AND THE NEW ETHICAL FRAMEWORK – THE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

The Borough Solicitor submitted a report on the Government’s proposals relating to standards in public life. The proposals provided for further localisation of the system, to give local authorities greater ownership of the system, with the Standards Board continuing to have a strong, strategic role in providing guidance and support, and promoting best practice on the handling of allegations of misconduct. The role of co-opted independent members would be reinforced. The code would be made simpler and easier to understand and operate at a local level.

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Some changes would require primary legislation and it was anticipated that these would be included in the next Local Government Bill.

RESOLVED - that the report and the Government's proposals be noted.

10(E). INVESTIGATION UNDER STANDARDS BOARD REF SBE 12325.05

The Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer presented the Investigating Officer's report for consideration. The Investigating Officer addressed the Committee and answered questions from the members.

RESOLVED - (by 6 votes to 1) - that the finding of the Investigating Officer that there was no breach of the Code of Conduct be accepted and that all members receive training on Planning Board protocols and procedures.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.40 pm)