

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE
7 SEPTEMBER 2006**

Present: Independent members: -
Mr V Kempner (in the Chair)
Mrs S Fellows
Councillors Daniel, Smith and Tucker.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bird and Lambrechts.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2006 be approved and signed by the chair as a correct record.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors made no declarations of interest at this meeting

5 REVIEW OF THE PROCEDURE FOR LOCAL INVESTIGATION AND HEARING OF COMPLAINTS

The Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer presented a report proposing changes to the procedure for the local investigation and hearing of complaints alleging breach of the code of conduct. The report explained recent changes in legislation in respect of public access to information. It concluded that in future it was more likely than not that papers would be issued as accessible to the public. If there were particularly sensitive areas in the investigating officer's report then these might be treated as exempt whilst the bulk of the report and evidence would be accessible.

Appended to the report were details of Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (Access to Information: Exempt Information) Part 1 (Descriptions of Exempt Information: England). Also appended were the proposed Procedure for Local Investigation of Referred Complaints, Procedure for Local Standards Hearings and the Terms of Appointment of Investigating Officer highlighting the amendments.

RESOLVED that the proposed changes to the procedure for local investigation and hearing of complaints alleging breach of the Code of Conduct be approved.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.16 p.m.)