

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

1 December 2008

Attendance:

Mr P Smith (Independent Member - Chairman) (P)

Councillors:

Barratt (P)
Baxter (P)
Berry (P)
Chamberlain (P)

Hiscock (P)
Lipscomb
Nelmes (P)

Independent Members and Parish Representatives in attendance

Ms J Collins (Independent Member)
Ms M McCormack (Independent Member)
Ms S Peach (Independent Member)

Ms L Banister (Parish Representative)
Mr J Harris (Parish Representative)
Mr M Westwell (Parish Representative)

1. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 15 September 2008 be approved and adopted.

2. **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS - CONSULTATION**
([Report ST73 refers](#))

With regard to the proposed definition of 'criminal offence' (Question 2), it was confirmed that any case which came within that definition (as finally agreed) would still need to be judged on its particular merits by the Standards (Assessments) Sub Committee. On that basis, Members were satisfied with the response as set out in the report.

With regard to not commencing an ethical investigation until any criminal process had been completed (Question 5), it was agreed that the word 'may' in the first line of the response, be changed to 'will'. This was because, under the system proposed in the consultation paper for dealing with conduct whilst acting in a non-official capacity, if a criminal investigation had reached a 'not

guilty' verdict, it would mean that the Member's actions were not serious enough to warrant a Code of Conduct investigation.

With regard to the definition of a 'criminal offence' within the General Principles Order (Question 11) Members agreed that, for consistency, the response should be the same as that in Response 2 and so the reply should be amended accordingly.

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the above amendment, the comments set out in the report be forwarded to the Government as the response of this Authority to the consultation document.

3. **STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND – CASE REVIEW: 2008 DIGEST**
([Report ST74 refers](#))

RESOLVED:

That the content of the Case Review: 2008 Digest from the Standards Board for England be received and noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.15pm and concluded at 6.55pm

Chairman