

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**1 November 2005  
(6.00pm – 6.45pm)

**PRESENT:** Councillors Dryden, Hymans, Stebbings and Taylor (Chair).  
External Members: Dr Clark, Ms Hobbs (Vice Chair)

**FOR INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL****05/s/24 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2005 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**05/s/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Barrett-Payton and R Smith.

**05/s/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**05/s/27 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No members of the public were present.

**05/s/28 CODE OF CONDUCT AND DECLARATION OF HOSPITALITY**

The Committee was of the view that the Council's local scheme for declaring gifts and hospitality be retained.

Members suggested that the officers could make the local scheme easier to administer for members by:

- Providing members at home with a notepad with pre printed forms so that they can register any acceptance or decline of gift/hospitality, and possibly providing it on-line.
- Revising the details and explanation provided in Members' Induction and the packs of information provided.

*Action by Members' Services*

**Resolved –**

To recommend to Civic Affairs Committee that the Council's local scheme for declaring gifts and hospitality be incorporated in the Council's Constitution (Part 5A Code of Conduct).

**05/s/29 APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL MEMBER**

The Chair introduced a discussion concerning the future recruitment of an external member of the Standards Committee. The previous recruitment in March 2005 had been unsuccessful and Ms Hobbs had agreed to carry on until May 2006.

Members recommended that the officers pursue the following:

- South Cambridgeshire DC was understood to be in the process of recruiting to its Standards Committee and there may be opportunities for joint recruitment (and see if the vacancies for the Independent Remuneration Panel can be dealt with also).
- Analyse the allowances for External Members of local Standard Committees.
- Consider approaching local Law Society, Chambers of Commerce, Trades Unions
- Advertise wider (Area Committees, Universities, Hospitals, Churches)
- Ask Councillors for suitable candidates.
- Agree the recruitment panel through correspondence.
- Draft an advert for Committee approval.

The Committee then considered the views of the External Members on the level of induction and training. It was noted that the current Members had attended the Corporate Induction and had received induction from the Director of Central Services. Although the External Members received the Council Agenda, the Chair suggested that the Forward Plan would be of use. In addition, the External Members should be provided a copy and entitled to attend training listed on the Member Development Programme.

*Action by Democratic Services*

#### **05/s/30      CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING**

The Committee welcomed the courses run by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and suggested that another session on the Code could be provided before the Council meeting on 8 December.

#### **05/s/31      STANDARDS BOARD CONFERENCE**

The Chair gave an oral report on the Conference attended in September. The Committee noted that there were currently conflicting views from the Standards Board and ODPM. The Chair highlighted that the Committee would need to keep open a need for training on determining investigations. The Director of Central Services would look for what the Standards Board were currently offering on-line, as this had been mentioned at the Conference.

The Chair also raised the matter of non-Councillor Chairs and how they would report to Council. Again this was a matter that required the Committee to be aware of for the future.

#### **05/s/32      NEXT MEETING**

To held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 6:00pm.

The meeting closed at 6.45pm

**Chair**