

Standards Committee

A meeting of Standards Committee was held on Thursday, 11th October, 2007.

Present: Mr F W Hayes (Chairman) Cllr Paul Baker, Mr T Bowman, Mrs E Chapman, Cllr John Fletcher, Mr L W Hedley, Mrs F Robinson, Cllr Andrew Sherris and Cllr Steve Walmsley (Vice Cllr Dalgarno)

Officers: J. Grant, M. Henderson (LD); I. Jones, H. Fowler (R)

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Cllr Dalgarno and Cllr Javed

S Introduction

61/07

The Chairman explained that the Committee had been called to consider the Final Report of an Investigation under Section 60(2) of the Local Government Act 2000 by the Council's Chief Internal Auditor into an allegation concerning a Member of Thornaby Town Council.

S Declarations of Interest

62/07

Cllr Walmsley declared a personal/prejudicial interest in the matter to be discussed because of a perception of bias affecting the person who was the subject of the allegation.

Mr Bowman declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in the matter as he had previously served on a Parish Council and School Governing body at the same time as the Member who was the subject of the allegation.

S Quorum

63/07

The Chairman confirmed that the Committee was quorate.

S Purpose of the meeting and procedure to be followed

64/07

It was explained to the Committee that this meeting was not a hearing and that Members were required to consider the investigation report and ask for clarification of any points of uncertainty.

Particular reference was made to the two possible decisions that the Committee could arrive at, following its consideration of the report: -

- that it accepted the finding contained in the investigation report or,
- that the matter should be considered at a hearing of the Standards Committee.

S Exclusion of the Press and Public

65/07

RESOLVED that under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 10 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

In view of his personal, prejudicial interest in this matter Councillor Walmsley left the meeting room.

**S
66/07** **Final Report - Reference under Section 60(2) of the Local Government Act 2000 to the Monitoring Officer, Stockton on Tees Borough Council - Standards Board Reference Number SBE 16748.06**

The Investigating Officer presented his report to the Committee and provided Members with details of the complaint.

The Committee was referred to relevant parts of the Code of Conduct which he considered the allegations of misconduct related to: -

- Paragraph 2 (b) and (c) of the Code of Conduct stated that:

A member must treat others with respect and not do anything which compromises, or which is likely to compromise, the impartiality of those who work for, or on behalf of, the authority.

- Paragraph 4 of the Code of Conduct stated that:

A member must not in his official capacity, or any other circumstance, conduct himself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing his office or authority into disrepute.

The Committee discussed and fully considered the report and its findings and asked questions of the Investigating Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer.

**S
67/07** **The Standards Committee's decision**

The Committee accepted the findings contained in the report and provided reasons for its decision.

RESOLVED that the findings in the report, that there had been no breach of Paragraph 2 (b) and (c) or para 4 of the Code of Conduct, be accepted.