

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

7 OCTOBER 2005

Mr. J.P Lesquereux (Chairman)

Councillors: P.G. Barnes Outside Members: Mr J R Baggaley
 F.J.D Boot Mr G D Proctor
 C.N.F.W Pratt Mr G Wallis

4 TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 MAY 2005.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the above meeting, having been circulated, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5 MEMBER TRAINING

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reported that at a recent meeting of the Group Whips the matter of Members' training was addressed. In particular, training for members of the Planning Committee and the Licensing Act Committee was considered. A further possible training need had been identified in Chairmanship skills.

The Whips had requested that this matter be referred to the Standards Committee for consideration. In addition, the Standards Committee had been asked to advise what protocols they would consider to be appropriate governing Council matters.

The Committee were therefore asked to consider the request received from the Group Whips.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council consider the implementation of the following recommendations:-

i. That Members appointed to either the Planning or Licensing Act Committees or both shall receive initial training and training specific to those Committees within 6 months of their appointment to those Committees.

ii. All Members of the Planning and Licensing Act Committees shall receive at least one session of refresher training in each subsequent 12-month period.

iii. That additional Training including Chairmanship skills should be made available as considered necessary by Members and Officers.

iv. That the Council have a clear system of collecting training data and reporting and acting upon evaluation of any training given to Members with an established oversight responsibility.

2. To keep the issue of protocols governing Council members under review as the role of the Licensing Act Committee and its Panel evolves.

6 CODE OF CONDUCT

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reported that the 2005 Annual Conference had been attended by the Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer, Details and content of the Conference were included in the report

In particular the proposed revisions to the Code of Conduct were discussed and the recommendations to clarify the provisions of the Code on misuse of resources.

RESOLVED:

To note the report and Officers be requested to report back at a later date on what protocols other Authorities of a comparative size have with regard to the misuse of resources.

7 PARISH MEETINGS

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reminded Members that the Committee had resolved to meet with the Parish Clerks and Chairs to continue to debate with them as to their experiences of the working of the Code of Conduct and the ethical agenda in general.

Notes of the meetings, which had taken place, were submitted at Appendix 2 to the report.

RESOLVED:

To note the report

The meeting closed at 6.00 pm.