

---

## **Standards Committee**

### **Report of the meeting held on 5th June 2008**

---

---

#### **Matter for Decision**

---

**1. LOCAL ASSESSMENT OF CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS: REQUIREMENTS OF NEW REGIME**

The Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 came into force on 8th May 2008 and provide for the initial assessment of allegations of Member misconduct to be transferred from the Standards Board for England to local authority Standards Committees which will have to decide whether each allegation appears to disclose a breach of the Code of Conduct for Members and whether it merits investigation.

The Committee has considered the arrangements which are required to respond effectively to the new Regulations and these are described in the report of the Director of Central Services and Monitoring Officer which is appended hereto.

Principally, these will involve the establishment of Referrals (Assessment) and Review Sub Committees and the approval of appropriate terms of reference for each Sub Committee. These Sub-Committees, which will comprise one Independent Member, one Town and Parish Councillor and one District Councillor, will have responsibility for the initial assessment of allegations, decide whether a particular allegation should be investigated and review decisions made on an original allegation should the complainant request it. Implementation of the requirements under the 2008 Regulations will require a series of changes to the Constitution and these will be presented to the Corporate Governance Panel prior to adoption by the Council.

Mindful of the requirement to ensure that membership of the Referrals (Assessment) Sub-Committee and Review Sub-Committee do not overlap when the latter considers the same matter and conscious of the need to establish a framework with sufficient flexibility to respond to the demands of the new regime, it is considered necessary to appoint an additional Independent Member to serve on the Committee. Although the Regulations are silent on the issue of overlap with any hearing that might be necessary, the Committee is anxious to prevent any perception of bias and therefore, to be able to respond with sufficient flexibility the Committee –

#### **RECOMMEND**

**that the Council appoint an additional Independent Member to serve on the Standards Committee for the remainder of the current four year term to May 2011.**

**2. APPLICATION FOR DISPENSATION**

Following an application from the Town Clerk, the Committee has granted a dispensation to sixteen Members of St Ives Town Council who act as trustees to the Norris Library and Museum Charity, to enable the Councillors to speak and vote at meetings of the Town Council or at any of its Committees on matters relating to the Library and Museum for the period ending 30th April 2012.

**3. APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM MONITORING OFFICER**

Having regard to the impending retirement of the Director of Central Services, the Committee has noted the designation of the Head of Legal and Estates as Interim Monitoring Officer pending a new appointment to the Director's post.

**4. DELIVERING THE GOODS: LOCAL STANDARDS IN ACTION**

The Committee has authorised the attendance of Messrs. P Boothman and D L Hall, Independent Members, and Mr G Watkins, town and parish council representative, at the Annual Assembly of Standards Committees which is to be held at the International Conference Centre, Birmingham on 13th and 14th October 2008. This year's conference will focus on the new local Standards framework and the delivery of effective local assessment of allegations.

D L Hall  
Chairman