

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the STANDARDS COMMITTEE held in Meeting Room 1, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon PE29 3TN on Thursday, 3 July 2008.

PRESENT: Mr D L Hall - Chairman

Councillors Mrs B E Boddington, A Hansard, I R Muir and G S E Thorpe

Messrs P L Boothman, M Lynch and G Watkins

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors P J Downes and T D Sanderson and from Mr D McPherson

### 12. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th June 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor A Hansard who had been re-appointed to the Committee in place of Councillor Farrer and announced the appointment of Christine Deller as Deputy Monitoring Officer pending recruitment to the post of Director of Central Services.

### 13. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

### 14. APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL INDEPENDENT MEMBER

The Chairman reported that the Council, at its meeting held on 25th June 2008, had resolved, on the recommendation of the Committee, to appoint an additional Independent Member to assist the Council in its response to the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008. It was confirmed that the position had been offered to and accepted by Mrs S Stafford who had been interviewed in May 2007 by the Panel appointed for that purpose.

### 15. CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS - STANDARDS BOARD NOTIFICATIONS

The Committee received and noted a report by the Head of Legal and Estates and Monitoring Officer (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) regarding the decision of the Standards Board for England not to take any further action in relation to allegations made against two Councillors serving on St. Ives Town Council.

**16. LOG OF CODE OF CONDUCT ENQUIRIES**

Further to Minute No. 42, Members received and noted details of Code of Conduct enquiries recorded by the Director of Central Services and Monitoring Officer since the meeting of the Committee held on 6th March 2008 (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book).

**17. STANDARDS BOARD STATISTICS**

The Committee received and noted an extract from "The Bulletin" published by the Standards Board for England which illustrated the number of allegations received by the Board during the period 1st April 2007 to 31st March 2008 and the referral and investigation statistics over the same period (a copy of the extract is appended in the Minute Book).

**18. LOCAL ASSESSMENT: EXERCISE**

By referral to the Local Assessment Complaint Handling Chart produced by the Standards Board for England, the Monitoring Officer guided Members through a training exercise during which two example cases were reviewed and conclusions reached, in discussion, as to whether the cases should be referred for further action or if not referred, the reasons for the decision. Copies of the material use in the exercise is appended in the Minute Book.

**19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED

that the next meeting of the Committee be held on Thursday 11th September 2008 at 10am.

Chairman