

At a meeting of the STANDARDS COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on TUESDAY, 30TH JUNE, 2009 at 1.00 p.m.

Present:-

Mr. G.N. Cook in the Chair

Councillors Charlton, M. Forbes, Wakefield and Wares, together with Mr. J.P. Paterson, Mr. C. Stewart and Councillors G.W.K. Hepple and A.R. Wilkinson (Hetton Town Council).

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillor Tate.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 22nd May, 2009 (copy circulated) were submitted.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

1. RESOLVED that the minutes be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Standards Board Intervention, Joint Standards Committees and Dispensations

The Chief Solicitor submitted a report (copy circulated) which informed the Committee of new regulations which came into force on 15th June 2009, which made provision for the Standards Board for England to suspend the functions of a local Standards Committee where the Committee was failing to perform its functions satisfactorily and either to discharge the functions itself or to arrange for another Authority's Standards Committee to do so.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Bob Rayner, Chief Solicitor presented the report informing Members that the regulations also gave Authorities a power to establish Joint Standards Committees and extend the power of Standards Committees to give Members dispensations where they would otherwise be prohibited from participating on a matter because of a prejudicial interest. Members attention was drawn to paragraph 4 of the report which highlighted the changes to the dispensation regulations.

Consideration having been given to the matter, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the report be received and noted; and
- (ii) all Members be made aware of the new grounds for an application for a dispensation.

‘Improving Standards’ Event – 7th May, 2009 – North Tyneside Council

The Chief Solicitor submitted a report (copy circulated) which advised of the ‘Improving Standards’ event hosted by North Tyneside Council held on 7th May, 2009 and which appended a report on the event prepared by Mr. Colin Stewart, Independent Member of the Committee, who had attended to represent Sunderland City Council.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Stewart having briefed the Committee on the presentations given by Mr. David Laverick, President of the Adjudication Panel for England and Dr. Michael Macaulay, Reader in Governance and Public Ethics, Teesside University, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked Members and Officers for their attendance.

(Signed) G.N. COOK,
Chairman.