

At a meeting of the STANDARDS COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on TUESDAY, 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2008 at 2.15 P.M.

Present:-

Mr. G.N. Cook in the Chair

Councillors M. Forbes and Wakefield, together with Mr. J.P. Paterson, 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 Councillors Charlton, Gofton and Wares and Mr. C. Stewart.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 30th June, 2008 (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 interests declared.

Dispensation Applications

The City Solicitor submitted a report (copy circulated) requesting the Committee to consider whether to grant dispensations to Members of Cabinet.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The City Solicitor briefed the Committee on the report. He referred Members to Appendix A which detailed the Cabinet Members who had requested a dispensation to enable them to consider a report from the Audit and Governance Committee at the Cabinet meeting to be held on 8th October,

2008 concerning the disposal of the Council's interest in the Ford and Hylton Club. He advised that Councillor Trueman, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Public Health, had now also requested a dispensation to consider the matter.

The City Solicitor invited the Committee to consider granting a dispensation to the Members of the Cabinet for an appropriate period.

Councillor M. Forbes enquired as to the content of the protocol to be prepared on business dealings between the Council and elected Members.

The City Solicitor advised that he would be drawing together relevant parts of the Code of Conduct and requested Members to give consideration to any other aspects which they might wish to see included and that he would share the draft with Members at a future meeting of the Committee.

The Chairman commented that the protocol would be useful as it would draw together the practice the Council expected and provide transparency in respect of the dealings between Elected Members and the Council to Members of the Public.

Members having discussed the period for which to grant dispensations to the Members of the Cabinet, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that a dispensation be granted to the Members of the Cabinet listed in Appendix A to the report, together with Councillor Trueman in respect of the consideration of any reports concerning or relating to the Ford and Hylton Club which is leased by Councillor Paul Watson and Councillor Susan Watson, until the first diaried meeting of the Standards Committee of 2009, that is for the period until 27th March, 2009.

Statistical Return to the Standards Board

The City Solicitor submitted a report (copy circulated) apprising the Committee of the number of complaints received in the current quarter ending 30th September, 2008 and the determinations of the Assessment Sub-Committee.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The City Solicitor advised that a statistical return would be made to the Standards Board and it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the content of the report be noted.

The Chairman having thanked Members for their attendance, closed the meeting.

(Signed) G.N. COOK,
(Chairman).