

Decisions of the Standards Committee held on Wednesday 23 March 2011

These decisions are published for information in
advance of the publication of the Minutes

DECISIONS:

1. MONITORING OFFICER'S REPORT ON COMPLAINTS

No resolution was passed in respect of this item.

(Suzan Hemingway - 01274 432496)

2. IMPLICATIONS OF THE LOCALISM BILL FOR THE STANDARDS FRAMEWORK IN BRADFORD

Resolved –

- (1) That the implications of the Localism Bill on the Standards Regime as set out in Document “H” be noted.
- (2) That the comments of the Standards Committee upon the questions listed in paragraph 2.15 of Document “H” as set out in full below be carried forward by the Monitoring Officer as appropriate:

Question 1 - Should the Council adopt a voluntary Code of Conduct?

Comment – There is merit in adopting a voluntary Code.

Question 2 - If yes, should the Council revise the existing Code or adopt a new Code drafted locally?

Comment - The Council should adopt a new Code drafted locally.

Question 3 - If a Code is to be retained/introduced should there be different processes for dealing with different types of complaints? Namely:

- A complaint by a member.
- A complaint by an officer.



Suzan Hemingway, City Solicitor

- A complaint by a member of the public.

Comment – There should be different processes for complaints of different origin but all should have access to the same final complaints body

Question 4 - Should the Council have a separate Standards Committee to implement the Code of Conduct Regime or should the functions be transferred to another committee exercising Council functions?

Comment – There should be a Standards Committee for reasons of transparency and public perception.

Question 5 - What, if any functions can be delegated to an officer?

Comment - The initial questions that an Assessment Sub-Committee must address itself to in order to deal with a complaint should be delegated to an officer to prevent unnecessary meetings.

Question 6 - The Localism Bill proposes that the position of independent Members as it currently stands are to be abolished. Should the Council retain co-opted independent members in a non voting capacity?

Comment - The input of independent members was considered to be very useful so they should be retained. It was regretted that they could not retain the capacity to vote.

Question 7 - Is there any merit in having a regional Standards Committee?

Comment – There was no such merit as such a Committee would not be in touch with local priorities

Question 8 - The Localism Bill would remove the requirement for the Council to administer a Code of Conduct for Town and Parish Councils. Is there any merit in continuing to provide this service on a voluntary basis?

Comment – There could be merit in continuing a service to Town and Parish Councils but there would be financial implications to consider and there may be other arrangements for such Councils.

(Suzan Hemingway - 01274 432496)

3. **STANDARDS COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

No resolution was passed in respect of this item.

(Suzan Hemingway – 01274 433696)

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