



Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Held: WEDNESDAY, 30 JUNE 2004 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Ms. Jill Bellingham (Independent Member) - Chair

Mrs. Caroline Roberts (Independent Member) Councillor Coley
Councillor Draycott Councillor O'Brien

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were requested to declare any interests they might have in the business to be discussed and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to them.

No declarations were made.

2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE 2004/05

RESOLVED:

that the membership of the Committee for 2004/05, as set out below, be noted: -

Councillor Coley
Councillor Draycott
Councillor O'Brien
Ms. Jill Bellingham (Independent Member)
Mrs. Caroline Roberts (Independent Member)

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE 2004/05

RESOLVED:

that the Terms of Reference of the Committee, as circulated with the Agenda, be noted.

4. DATES OF MEETINGS 2004/05

RESOLVED:

that the dates of meetings of the Committee for the remainder of

the year 2004/05, as set out below, be approved: -

29 September 2004
24 November 2004
26 January 2005
30 March 2005

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2004, as entered in the Minute Book on pages 12 to 15 inclusive, copies of which had been circulated to Members, be received, taken as read, and signed by the Chair as a correct record, subject to the following amendments: -

Minute 28 – Consultation – Local Investigation and Determination of Misconduct Allegations

Paragraph (ii)

Sub-Heading – first word to read Confidentiality

2nd line – delete ‘needed strengthening and’...

Minute 30 – Complaints Relating to Elected Members

1st paragraph, page 15

4th line, delete words ‘the wording’ the line then to read ‘...by the officers. All members...’

6. POLITICAL CONVENTIONS

The Town Clerk submitted a report that proposed changes to the existing Political Conventions, arising from experience since the last review took place.

The Committee gave detailed consideration to the proposed changes outlined and supported the suggested changes and views of the Procedures Working Party in respect of the following Conventions: -

- 1.3 Officers must be politically neutral at work
- 1.5 Respect and courtesy between Councillors and Officers –
Members conduct in meetings –
Respect to Chair/Vice-Chair
- 4.5 Guidance on organising Scrutiny business
- 7.4 Staff lobbying Councillors
- 9.0 Election periods

The Committee expressed their views on the conventions set out below, for inclusion in the report to Council.

Convention 5.1 – Development Control decisions

The Committee had no comments on the changes proposed to items 19 and 25

but they expressed concerns at the changes proposed to item 23, relating to presentations at Development Control Committee by Members not on the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the following approach be recommended: -

- a) that there be an expectation that Members making a contribution to the meeting should keep their presentation within 5 minutes and that there be an expectation that the Chair exercise discretion to allow such additional time as may be required for all valid points to be given a reasonable airing.
- b) The operation of this approach be reviewed after 3 months.

Property discussions and negotiations

The Committee were of the opinion that the proposed Convention be considered by the Procedures Working Party before being adopted.

RESOLVED:

that the proposed Convention, relating to property discussions and negotiations, be fully considered by the Procedures Working Party before being adopted.

7. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 6.26pm

