



Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Held: TUESDAY, 31 JULY 2001 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

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

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1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

The Town Clerk sought nominations for the position of Chair. Councillor Draycott proposed, seconded by Councillor Coley that Ms Jill Bellingham be elected Chair for this meeting.

RESOLVED:

that Ms. Jill Bellingham chair this meeting, the Chair to alternate between meetings between the two Independent Members.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were requested to declare any interests they may 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.

**3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE
2001/02**

RESOLVED:

that the membership of the Committee, as detailed on the agenda be noted.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF COMMITTEE

RESOLVED:

that the Committee's Terms of Reference, be noted.

**5. ETHICAL STANDARDS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT -
POSITION STATEMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION
PROGRAMME**

The Town Clerk submitted a report informing the Committee of the current position regarding the development of new ethical standards within local government and the programme of implementation within the City Council.

RESOLVED:

that the report be noted.

6. DEALING WITH COMPLAINTS AGAINST COUNCILLORS

The Town Clerk submitted a report seeking approval to a procedure for dealing with complaints against Councillors. It was noted that this procedure also applied to co-opted and Independent Members.

The following amendments were proposed.

Paragraph 7

It was considered that this should be amended to provide that the Town Clerk should consult the Group Whips and the Chair of the Committee on how he should respond to complaints.

Paragraph 8(1)

It was also agreed that decisions taken by the Town Clerk, as referred to above, should be reported back to the Committee on a six monthly basis in the form of a statistical pattern of complaints rather than detailing individual cases.

Paragraphs 9, 10 and 11

It was agreed that there should be consistency in how time frames were referred to i.e. either in weeks or working days.

Paragraph 12

It was agreed that the complainant should also be entitled to be accompanied.

Paragraph 15(5)

It was agreed that the decisions with reasons should be sent to all parties involved.

General

- a) Agreed there should be reference to a timescale within which complaints should be settled.

- b) Agreed that a note be prepared for Whips giving guidance to 'limits' of types of complaints that should be referred to Committee, to be submitted for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED:

that, subject to the above amendments, the procedure for dealing with complaints against Councillors, be agreed.

7. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED:

that the Committee meet on the future dates at 5.30pm:-

Wednesday 12 September 2001

Wednesday 7 November 2001

Wednesday 9 January 2002

Wednesday 13 March 2002

8. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 6.15pm.