

**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**THURSDAY, 14TH DECEMBER 2006, AT 6.00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mrs. N. E. Trigg (Chairman), Councillor E. C. Tibby (Vice-Chairman), Councillor Mrs. J. D. Luck, Councillor C. R. Scurrall, Councillor S. P. Shannon, Councillor Mrs. C. J. Spencer and Mr. B. J. Somner (Parish Council Representative)

1/07 **APOLOGIES**

No apologies for absence were submitted.

2/07 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

3/07 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20th September 2006 were submitted.

**RESOLVED**: that the Minutes be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

4/07 **DECISIONS OF THE ADJUDICATION PANEL**

The Committee considered the decisions which had recently been taken by the Adjudication Panel on a range of cases where Councillors had breached the Code of Conduct. The report detailed the decisions taken by the Panel in each case.

**RESOLVED**: that the report be noted.

5/07 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER**

The Committee was informed of proposals contained in the government white paper, entitled "Strong and Prosperous Communities", for changes to the current standards regime. The principal changes were a more locally-based standards regime with "filtering" of complaints being carried out by Monitoring Officers rather than the Standards Board for England; a more strategic role for the Standards Board; a clearer, simpler and more proportionate code of conduct for members; and a new code of conduct for employees.

**RESOLVED**: that the report be noted.

6/07 **HIGH COURT DECISION REGARDING THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Committee considered details of the outcome of the decision of the High Court in the case of Ken Livingstone -v- The Adjudication Panel for England. The Court held that where a councillor did something in an entirely private capacity, where his conduct has nothing to do with his position as a councillor, he will not be covered by the Code and no action can be taken against that councillor under the Code.

**RESOLVED**: that the report be noted.

7/07 **LOCAL INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINT TO THE STANDARDS BOARD**

The Committee was informed that the investigation had taken longer to complete than had been anticipated and as a consequence the report was not be available for consideration at this meeting.

**RESOLVED**: that consideration of this matter be deferred until the next meeting of the Committee.

The meeting closed at 6.15 pm

Chairman