

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Thursday , 14th December 2006, at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs. N. E. Trigg (Chairman), Mrs J. D. Luck, C. R. Scurrall, S. P. Shannon, Mrs. C. J. Spencer E. C. Tibby and Mr S. Allard. Mr M. P. O'Mahoney and B. J. Somner

14/06 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were submitted.

15/06 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made

16/06 **MINUTES**

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.

17/06 **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.

18/06 **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.

19/06 **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.

20/06

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 p.m.

Chairman