

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: Thursday 14th June, 2007

Time: 6.00pm

Place: Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage

Present: Members: Mr S. Gillies (Independent Chair), Mrs. A. Hale (Independent),
Councillors M. Downing, CC, Mrs J.E. Lloyd and M. Notley

Start/End Time: Start Time: 6.00pm

End Time: 7.05pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no apologies for absence and no declarations of interest.

2 MINUTES – Tuesday 13th March, 2007

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday 13th March, 2007 having been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

3 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee considered the Terms of Reference for the Standards Committee that had been re-established at the Annual meeting of the Council on 23rd May 2007.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Terms of Reference for the Standards Committee be noted.

4 REVISED CODE OF CONDUCT – CONSEQUENTIAL MATTERS

The Borough Solicitor submitted a report that updated Members on the introduction of the revised Code of Conduct and some consequential changes to Members' guidance.

The following documents were appended to the report:

Appendix 1- Stevenage Borough Council's existing guidance on the Code of Conduct;

Appendix 2 - Standards Board for England pocket guide;

Appendix 3 - Draft guidance on the acceptance of gifts and hospitality.

Members discussed the more significant changes to the Code and particularly mentioned the £25 upper limit for gifts and hospitality and the

format of the register. The Borough Solicitor confirmed that the onus was on Councillors to declare gifts and hospitality either in writing, or by email within 28 days.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That the proposals for adopting the new Code of Conduct and training for Members be noted;
2. That the Pocket Guide to be issued by the Standards Board for England as at Appendix 2 to the report be agreed as a replacement and issued to Members;
3. That guidance on the receipt of gifts and hospitality as at Appendix 3 to the report be agreed.

5 STANDARDS COMMITTEE REVIEW FOR YEAR 2006/07

The Committee considered a review against the Terms of Reference for the Standards Committee for the year 2006/07.

It was **RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

6 URGENT PART I BUSINESS

None.

7 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

None.

8 URGENT PART II BUSINESS

None.

CHAIR