

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ETHICS AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

THE EARL BALDWIN SUITE, DUKE HOUSE, CLENSMORE STREET,
KIDDERMINSTER

27TH JANUARY 2009 (6:00 PM)

Present:

Councillors: Mrs R L Akathiotis, Mrs H E Dyke, P Dyke, M J Hart,
Mrs S M Hayward and C D Nicholls.

Independent Members:

Rev J A Cox(Chairman) and Mrs C A Noons (Vice-Chairman).

Parish/Town Council Members

Mr R Hobson (Parish Member)
Miss A Mace (Town Council Member)
Mr J Swift (Parish Member)

Observer: Councillor G W Ballinger.

ES.17 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: G H Eeles,
D R Godwin, M B Kelly and K J Stokes..

ES.18 Appointment Of Substitutes

Councillor Mrs J Fairbrother-Millis was appointed as a substitute for Councillor
G H Eeles.

ES.19 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

ES.20 Minutes

DECISION: The minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2008 be
confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

ES.21 Member Activity Report

A report was considered from the Monitoring Officer that included the
outstanding Member Activity Report for 2007/08.

DECISION: The report be agreed for submission onto the Council's
website.

ES.22 Feedback Format for Members on Outside Bodies

A report was considered from the Monitoring Officer that asked the Committee to consider the possibility of Members being asked to feedback to Council on an annual basis their activities as a Council appointed member of an outside body.

The Monitoring Officer commented that Members sat on a wide range and variety of outside bodies as representatives of the Council. It was perceived to be important to receive feedback so that Council was informed of any progress on matters, including significant decisions and matters that arose at outside bodies, thus enabling the Council to be aware of the activities of partnership bodies.

Members were informed that currently feedback on outside bodies was sporadic. Some Members did include details of their activities at outside bodies in their Member Activity Reports. Other Members reported to the quarterly scrutiny briefings but it was noted that there was currently no corporate reporting format for Members to give feedback. It was recognised that openness and transparency was important particularly if members were in receipt of allowances for their work on an outside body.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

In order to promote transparency, that Members be required to submit annual feedback on their activities as a Council appointed Member on an outside body. Feedback should include progress on matters, significant decisions, matters of interest and also details of any allowances received.

ES.23 Communities in Control : Real People, Real Power Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity

A report was considered from the Monitoring Officer regarding a consultation on local authority publicity.

Members recognised the importance of responding to publications as changes were made as a result of the responses received. The suggested responses were considered and Members were in agreement with them.

DECISION:

Delegated authority be given to the Monitoring Officer to respond to the consultation on behalf of the Authority the view of the Ethics and Standards Committee.

ES.24 Exclusion of the Press and Public

DECISION:

Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of “Exempt Information” as defined in paragraphs 1 & 2 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

ES.25 Summary of Minutes

The following proceedings were considered after the press and public had been excluded from the meeting. A summary of the minutes relating to these items has been made as “exempt information” would be disclosed if the minutes were published in full.

ES.26 COMPLAINTS TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN

A report was considered from the Chief Executive that detailed the outcome of complaints to the Local Government Ombudsman for the period April 2007 to March 2008.

The meeting ended at 6.35 pm.,