

## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, 16th December, 2003, at 6.00 p.m.

### **PRESENT:-**

The Bishop of Dudley (Independent Chair)  
Councillors Burt, Fraser-Macnamara, Hanson, Ms Partridge, Powell and Sheppard; Mrs Jabeen, together with the Director of Law and Property (as Ministry Officer) and Mr Sanders (Directorate of Law and Property).

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### 10 **MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 30th September, 2003, be approved as a correct record and signed.

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### 11 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of a personal interest, in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct, were made by the members below, in respect of the issues indicated:

- a) Councillor Fraser-Macnamara, in respect of paragraph 2.4.1(b) of Agenda item number 5 (Monitoring of the Members' Code of Conduct) in view of the fact that he gave evidence in respect of the case referred to.
- b) Councillor Burt in respect of paragraph 2.4.1(b) of Agenda item number 5 in view of his being related to the person referred to.

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### 12 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence for the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors Bramall and Tyler.

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### 13 **SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

It was reported that Councillors Burt and Shepherd were serving in place of Councillors Bramall and Tyler, respectively.

## MONITORING OF THE MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

A report of the Monitoring Officer was submitted on the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct since the introduction of the code in 2002.

The report summarised the nature and outcome of the four cases referred to the Standards Board during that period. The report also contained information from the Monitoring Officer on guidance and training issues and proposals of that Officer regarding further training.

In the discussion on the report, the Monitoring Officer confirmed that training and training material would be made available to any member of the Council who was not a member of a political group. In reply to a question, he also clarified the position on the Code of Conduct in relation to the role of a member of the Development Control Committee.

The point was made by one member that a thorough investigation of the facts ought to be made by a member of the Council reporting a matter before a referral to the Standards Board was made.

### RESOLVED

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) That the proposal of the Monitoring Officer to publicise the Code at a future meeting of the Management Forum and in an edition of "Dudley Matters" and to submit a report to a meeting of the Dudley Community Partnership, be approved.
- 3) That the intention of the Monitoring Officer to organise further training events in 2004 dealing with local investigation and determination of complaints referred by the Ethical Standards Officer to the Standards Committee and for training to be given to new members after the local elections in June, 2004, be noted and supported.

The meeting ended at 6.40 pm.

CHAIR