

Special Standards Committee

Thursday 11 December, 2008 at 6.00 p.m.

at the Council House, Walsall

Present

Mr. R. Meller (Chairman)
Mr. L. Bates (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor A. Andrew
Dr. K. Biscomb
Mr. A. Wood

284/08 Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Cassidy and Woodruff and Mrs. Bashir.

285/08 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

286/08 Communities in Control: Real people, real power: Codes of conduct for local authority members and employees – consultation

The report of the Assistant Director of Legal and Constitutional Services and Monitoring Officer was submitted:

(see annexed)

The Assistant Director of Legal and Constitutional Services presented his report. Following comprehensive discussion and consideration of responses received from members, the Assistant Director of Legal and Constitutional Services answered questions raised by the Committee arising from the report.

The Committee agreed with the draft responses set out in the report. Where there were no comments in the report, the Council's response should be of no comment. Additionally there was a minority view at the Committee that:

- All criminal offence irrespective of their method of disposal should be included within the definition.

- The proposed limitation of restricting private conduct falling within the ambit of the Code of Conduct to criminal offences should not be adopted and that private conduct should be judged on whether it brings the office or the authority into disrepute.

Resolved

- (1) That the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairman, be delegated authority to draft the final response to the consultation paper, to reflect the comments discussed and agreed at the meeting.
- (2) That the Committee thank all those members who responded to the consultation report.

The meeting terminated at 7.05 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: