

Standards Committee

Date	9 February 2006
Venue	Town Hall, St Annes
Committee members	Eric Bamber (Chairman) Kiran Mulholland (Vice-Chairman) Derek Birchall, Howard Henshaw A D K (Malaysia), John Longstaff, Alan Marsh, Joyce McCormick,
Other Councillors	
Officers	Ian Curtis

1. Declarations of interest

Members were reminded that any personal/prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct adopted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000.

2. Confirmation of minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 26 April 2005 as a correct record for signature by the chairman.

3. Complaints to the Standards Board: Statistics

The monitoring officer presented a statistical analysis of complaints made to the Standards Board for England about members of Fylde Borough Council and parish councils within Fylde since the date of the last meeting. There had been fourteen such complaints arising out of six incidents. None of the complaints had been upheld as showing failures to comply with the code, though two were still under investigation.

The committee RESOLVED to note the report.

4. Member-officer relations

The committee considered a report from the monitoring officer setting out a proposed guidance note on member-officer relations. The guidance note had been advocated and approved by the chairman.

After discussion, the committee RESOLVED to adopt the guidance note and to invite the mayor, the chairman of the three community forums and the chief executive to endorse it.

5. Standards of conduct in English local government: The future

Members considered a briefing note about government consultation on proposed changes to the ethical framework for local government in England. The proposals included moving initial assessments of member misconduct allegations from the Standards Board for England to local standards committees, giving standards committees responsibility for investigating and determining most cases and requiring standards committees to be chaired by independent persons.

The committee RESOLVED to reply to the consultation by (1) welcoming the proposals for local investigation and determination, (2) encouraging the government to make the changes as soon as possible and (3) urging that appropriate resources be allocated to allow standards committees to fulfil their enhanced role.