

Enquiries regarding this Agenda:-
Steven Lincoln (01284) 757108

Democratic Renewal Panel

***Tuesday 12 February 2008 at 5.30 pm in the
Committee Room, Borough Offices, Angel Hill, Bury St Edmunds***

CONSTITUTION: *Chairman:* *Councillor P S Farmer*
 Vice-Chairman: *Councillor Mrs P A Warby*

Conservative *Other*
Members (6) *Member (1)*

Clifton-Brown *Chappell (Liberal Democrat)*
Cox
Farmer
Hale
Oliver
Mrs P A Warby

SUBSTITUTES:

Conservative *Other*
Members (2) *Member (1)*

Rout *Jones (Liberal Democrat)*
Stevens

QUORUM: *3 Members*

***Please switch off mobile phones during the
meeting, unless exceptional circumstances
require otherwise.***

Agenda

***This Panel is not covered by the Local Government (Access to Information)
Act 1985 or the Access to Information Rules in the Council's Constitution.
Therefore, there is no automatic right of access for the press or public to its
meetings.***

1. Substitutes

Any Member who is substituting for another Member should so indicate together with the name of the relevant absent Member.

2. Apologies for Absence

3. Minutes

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2007 (copy attached).

4. Declaration of Interests

Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal or prejudicial interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when that item is reached and, when appropriate, to leave the meeting prior to discussion and voting on the item.

5. Member Development: Update

Report **Y548** attached.

6. Speaking Arrangements for Ward Members at the Development Control Committee

Report **Y549** attached.

7. Representation on Outside Bodies: Annual Report

Report **Y550** attached.

8. Local Standards Assessment: Changes to Constitution

Part 10 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 contains changes to the current system of reporting and investigating complaints against Councillors for alleged breach of the Code of Conduct.

The main effect of the provisions, which are expected to come into effect on 1 April 2008, is to give Standards Committees the task of receiving and assessing complaints to decide whether and if so how they should be further investigated. At present, this function is carried out by the national body, the Standards Board for England. Periodic returns will be made to the Board detailing the number of complaints and how they were dealt with.

In the knowledge that the changes were coming, Article 9 of the Constitution was amended to provide that one of the Standards Committee's functions would be "dealing with the filtering of complaints" and also to require the Committee to be chaired by an Independent Member.

It is now appropriate to refine the provisions of the constitution with regard to the role of the Standards Committee and the duties of the Monitoring Officer.

The Panel is therefore asked to **RECOMMEND** to Council that the following amendments be made to the constitution:-

(1) Article 9, paragraph 9.3.1 (h) be amended to read:

"To carry out all the powers and duties contained in Part 10 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and regulations made thereunder including but not limited to local assessment of complaints and the making of returns to the Standards Board"; and

(2) Responsibility for Council Functions

Section C. Standards Committee be deleted.

(3) Scheme of Delegation of Officers: Head of Legal and Democratic Services

paragraph F3 (a) (1) 1. of the scheme of delegation, after "Local Government Act 2000" there be inserted "and Part 10 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007".

9. Date of Next Meeting

It is proposed that the next meeting of the Panel be held on Tuesday 18 March 2008 at 5.30 pm.