

**REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE
(Meeting held on 10 January 2003)**

1. LOCAL CODE FOR COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS DEALING WITH PLANNING MATTERS (REPORT A) (MINUTE 14).

The Committee has considered a revised local code for councillors and officers dealing with planning matters. Members of the Cabinet and the Planning Development Control Committee were invited to attend for this item.

The review of the Code had been necessary in the light of changes in legislation, revised guidance from the Local Government Association, the District Auditor's findings and general guidance locally and nationally, and the introduction of new democratic arrangements at the District Council.

Members suggested some minor amendments which Officers have incorporated in the attached Code.

RECOMMENDED:

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(a) *That the revised Local Code for Councillors and Officers dealing with planning matters, as attached to Appendix 1 to this Report, be approved, subject to the amendment of paragraphs 4.11 and 4.12 to meet the concerns expressed at the meeting; and*

(b) *That the Monitoring Officer and Head of Development Control be requested to arrange appropriate training on the Local Code for members involved in making decisions on planning, as soon as practicable after members have been appointed to the Cabinet and committees in May 2003.*

2. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL (REPORT B) (MINUTE 15)

Members of the Council may wish to note that the Committee has appointed the following three persons to serve on the Independent Remuneration Panel to consider and report on Members' Allowances to apply from May 2003:-

- Mrs Madeline Sumsion, Regional Director, South East Employers
- Mrs C Ames, Chairman, New Forest Tourism Association
- Dr A C Chitnis, Chairman, New Forest Primary Care Trust

The Panel's tasks and terms of reference were also agreed. The Panel will be sitting on 4 and 7 March. A number of members will be invited to be interviewed by the Panel. Other members are welcome to submit written comments for consideration by the Panel.

3. EXTENSION OF TERMS OF OFFICE OF INDEPENDENT AND PARISH/TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE (MINUTE 16).

In order to regularise these appointments, the Council is asked to extend the terms of office of the Independent and Parish/Town Council representatives on the Standards Committee to the end of the municipal year.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Terms of Office of the current Independent Members and the Parish/Town Council Representatives on the Standards Committee be extended to the end of the municipal year.

**Cllr J A G Hutchins JP
CHAIRMAN**