

DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

A meeting of the **Standards Committee** was held on 19 April 2005.

Further information on the items referred to below is contained in the Agenda for the meeting held on 19 April 2005.

Matters discussed (with Minute references shown in brackets) included:-

[SC/12] Standards Committee amendments to Terms of Reference and the Authority's Standing Orders

The Committee discussed Recommended changes to the Committee's Terms of Reference and the Authority's Standing Orders in order for the Committee to function effectively, taking into account legislative requirements.

RECOMMENDED

1. That the Terms of Reference for the Standards Committee be amended to include:
 - (i) "To monitor the effectiveness of the Authority's code of conduct for members and advise the Authority about the operation of its Code of Conduct for Members in the light of best practice, changes to the law, and guidance from the Standards Board for England." (*Local Government Act 2000 S54 (2)*)
 - (ii) "To ensure that all Members have access to training in all aspects of the Authority's Code of Conduct for members and that this training is actively promoted" (*Local Government Act 2000 S54(2)*)
 - (iii) "The determination of complaints about the conduct of members including cases referred by Ethical Standards Officers" (*Statutory Instrument 2004 No 2617 The Local authorities (Code of Conduct) (Local Determination) (Amendment) Regulations 2004.*)
 - (iv) "The granting of dispensations to Members from requirements relating to prejudicial interests as set out in Part 2 of the Authority's Code of Conduct for Members" (*Statutory Instrument 2002 No 339 The Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee (Dispensations) Regulations 2002)*)
 - (v) "The consideration and determination of appeals for information requested in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000."
2. That Section 7 - Quorum - of the Authority's Standing Orders is amended to include the following additional paragraph:

"The Standards Committee will only be quorate if at least 3 members of the Standards Committee are present for the whole of the meeting – including at least one of the independently appointed members to the Standards Committee." (*Statutory Instrument 2001 No 2812 S6*)

[SC/13] Standards Board for England Consultation on the Code of Conduct for Members

The Code of Conduct for Members was introduced in 2002 and the Standards Board for England is conducting a review of the content of the Code. Copies of the consultation document were circulated to all Members of the Authority and the independent members of the Standards Committee. The respondents had wide ranging views and it was resolved to send all the comments received to the Standards Board for England.

Francis De Beer
Chairman of the Standards Committee