

AGENDA ITEM NO: 5

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

AT A MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE ON WEDNESDAY 22 MARCH 2006

PRESENT:- Mr T Homewood (Chair)

Councillors K Iqbal and G Phelps

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor A Wallace.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no personal or prejudicial interests declared by Members at the meeting.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2005 be approved.

4. CODES OF CONDUCT

The Working Group considered a report of the Clerk on a discussion paper, which had been published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, which sets out the Government's vision for the future Comprehensive Conduct Regime for Local Authority Members and Employees.

It was reported that the recommendations proposed by the Government would deliver a clearer and more proportionate conduct regime for local government members and employees.

The Working Group were informed that there were currently 3 different Codes of Conduct in the Authority and the Executive covering Members and officers of the PTA and officers of the PTE. It was indicated that as soon as further guidance was received it was proposed to simplify and make the codes more compatible with each other. However, it was reported that the officers' codes of conduct had evolved overtime and, therefore, it had been decided to update and amalgamate the two codes. The new code had been prepared to

cover the principles expected from employees and expanded to provide advice on how staff should act in relation to the code.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the Members' Code of Conduct remains unchanged until further guidance is received from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.
- (b) That the proposal to merge the Code of Conduct for Officers of the Authority and Executive be noted.

5. PROCEDURE FOR THE LOCAL INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT AGAINST PTA MEMBERS

The Committee considered a report of the Clerk together with a draft procedure for the local investigation of allegations of misconduct against PTA Members.

It was reported that the Local Authorities (Code of Conduct)(Local Determination) Regulations allowed an Ethical Standards Officer after the completion of an investigation to refer the matter to the Monitoring Officer to put before the Standards Committee to investigate whether a member had failed to comply with the Code of Conduct. In this respect the Committee were advised that the Procedure for the Committee's approval was based on the guidance note issued by the Standards Board to Monitoring Officers intended to help them investigate allegations of misconduct.

RESOLVED - That the procedure for the local investigation of allegations of misconduct against PTA Members be approved.

6. REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY

The Committee considered a report of the Clerk updating Members on the register of personal and prejudicial interests and information relating to gifts and hospitality declared by Members during 2005/6.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

7. RESIGNATION OF CHAIR

Mr Homewood reported that he would be resigning from his position as Independent Member with immediate effect due to work commitments.

RESOLVED - That Mr Homewood be thanked for his hard work and dedication during his time as Chair of the Standards Committee.