



# AGENDA

For a SPECIAL meeting of the
<b>STANDARDS COMMITTEE</b>
to be held on
<b>TUESDAY, 20 DECEMBER 2005</b>
at
<b>9.30 AM</b>
in
<b>COMMITTEE ROOM 1, COUNCIL OFFICES, ST. PETER'S HILL, GRANTHAM</b>
Duncan Kerr, Chief Executive

Committee Members:	Mr. C. Holtom (Chairman), Mr. F. Mann (Vice-Chairman), Councillor Reg Lovelock M.B.E., Councillor John Wilks and Councillor Mike Williams
	Parish representatives: Councillor M Exton (Stamford Town Council), Councillor R Rose (Thurlby Parish Council), Councillor T Holmes (Bourne Town Council) and Councillor P Dolby (Braceborough and Wilsthorpe Parish Council)
Committee Support Officer:	Rebecca Chadwick r.chadwick@southkesteven.gov.uk 01476 406297

**Members of the Committee are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business listed below.**

- 1. MEMBERSHIP**  
A parish representative to be appointed.
- 2. APOLOGIES**
- 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
Members are asked to declare interests in matters for consideration at the meeting.
- 4. INVESTIGATION UNDER S.66 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 INTO AN ALLEGATION CONCERNING COUNCILLOR LINDA NEAL AND COUNCILLOR TERL BRYANT - MEMBERS OF SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
Report number DLS56 by the Solicitor to the Council (Deputy Monitoring Officer).  
**(Enclosure)**

**5. INVESTIGATION UNDER S.66 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 INTO AN ALLEGATION CONCERNING COUNCILLOR GUY CUDMORE A MEMBER OF THE BOURNE TOWN COUNCIL**

Report number DLS57 by the Monitoring Officer.

**(Enclosure)**

## REPORT TO STANDARDS COMMITTEE

REPORT OF:        LUCY YOULES  
                          SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL ( DEPUTY MONITORING OFFICER)

REPORT NO.        DLS56

DATE:                5th DECEMBER 2005

<b>TITLE:</b>	Investigation under S.66 of the Local Government Act 2000 into an allegation concerning Councillor Linda Neal and Councillor Teri Bryant – members of South Kesteven District Council
<b>FORWARD PLAN ITEM:</b>	N/A
<b>DATE WHEN FIRST APPEARED IN FORWARD PLAN:</b>	N/A
<b>KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:</b>	N/A

<b>COUNCIL AIMS/PORTFOLIO HOLDER NAME AND DESIGNATION:</b>	
<b>CORPORATE PRIORITY:</b>	CORPORATE GOVERNANCE
<b>CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS:</b>	N/A
<b>FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IMPLICATIONS:</b>	N/A
<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS:</b>	The Standards Board for England Guidance for members on lobby groups, dual hatted members and the Code of Conduct. Members Code of Conduct

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 By letter dated the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2005, the Standards Board for England referred the investigation of an allegation made against Councillor Linda Neal and Councillor Teri Bryant to this Council to be investigated.
- 1.2 Having given advice to the Councillors on matters referred to in the allegation, the Monitoring Officer, Nicholas Goddard, for reasons of conflict of interest, excluded himself from investigation of the allegation. As a result of this, He delegated the investigation to the Solicitor to the Council and Deputy Monitoring Officer (DMO)

## **2. DETAILS OF REPORT**

- 2.1 The DMO has investigated the allegation by reviewing the minutes of the Council meetings referred to in the allegation, considering the relevant sections of the Members Code of Conduct and the Standards Board guidance on lobby groups, dual hated members and the Code of Conduct, interviewing the Monitoring Officer, Councillors Neal and Bryant and e-mail correspondence with the complainant.
- 2.2 A confidential draft report was compiled from the information gathered during the investigation. The draft report was sent to the Councillors, the complainant, the Monitoring Officer and the Standards Board for comment. All comments received have been considered and the final report has been produced. This is attached as a confidential appendix to this report.
- 2.3 The findings of the report are that the Councillors, having established that they were not trustees on the board of the South Kesteven Citizens Advice Bureau and having taken the appropriate advice of the Council's Monitoring Officer, did not breach the Local Code of Conduct for Members.

## **3. RECOMMENDATION**

In view of the finding, it is recommended that the Standards Committee accepts the DMO's report and dismisses the allegation made against Councillors Neal and Bryant.

## **4. CONTACT OFFICER**

**Lucy Youles - Solicitor to the Council  
(Deputy Monitoring Officer)**

## REPORT TO STANDARDS COMMITTEE

REPORT OF:       NICK GODDARD  
                           CORPORATE MANAGER – DEMOCRATIC & LEGAL SERVICES  
                           (MONITORING OFFICER)

REPORT NO.       DLS57

DATE:             20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2005

<b>TITLE:</b>	Investigation under S.66 of the Local Government Act 2000 into an allegation concerning Councillor Guy Cudmore a member of the Bourne Town Council
<b>FORWARD PLAN ITEM:</b>	N/A
<b>DATE WHEN FIRST APPEARED IN FORWARD PLAN:</b>	N/A
<b>KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:</b>	N/A

<b>COUNCIL AIMS/PORTFOLIO HOLDER NAME AND DESIGNATION:</b>	
<b>CORPORATE PRIORITY:</b>	CORPORATE GOVERNANCE
<b>CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS:</b>	N/A
<b>FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IMPLICATIONS:</b>	N/A
<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS:</b>	Members Code of Conduct

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 By letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> July 2005 the Standards Board for England referred the investigation of an allegation made against Councillor Guy Cudmore to be investigated by myself as Monitoring Officer of the District Council.

## **2. DETAILS OF REPORT**

- 2.1 I have carried out an investigation into the circumstances of the publishing of an article by Councillor Cudmore on a public website that allegedly breached the Code of Conduct and considered the allegation by reviewing the relevant sections of the Members Code of Conduct. I have interviewed the complainant and officers of the District Council named or linked to the article and received comments and provided by Councillor Cudmore.
- 2.2 A confidential draft report was compiled from the information gathered during the investigation. The draft report was sent to Councillor Cudmore, the complainant and the Standards Board for comment. Any comments received have been considered and the final report has been produced. This is attached as a confidential appendix to this report.
- 2.3 The findings of the report are that Councillor Cudmore, in publishing an article in June 2005 did breach the Local Code of Conduct for Members.

## **3. RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Standards Committee consider the report and its findings and come to a decision in respect of Councillor Cudmore's conduct.

## **4. CONTACT OFFICER**

Nick Goddard, Monitoring Officer  
South Kesteven District Council