



Standards

Committee Minutes

Thu Jul 02 2009

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Present: -

Professor Forsythe (Chairman), Mr Bull and Alderman Turner.

Councillors Berry, Sir Simon Day, Fry, Hook and Owen

*1 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2009 be signed as a correct record.

*2 Questions from Members of the Public

There was no question from a member of the public.

*3 Matters of Urgency: Members Locality Budgets

(An item taken under Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.)

The Chairman had decided that the Committee should consider this item, as a matter of urgency, in order that Members might be made aware of correspondence with the Chairman of the Standards Committee of East Devon District Council over the use by County Councillors of locality budgets in an election year.

The County Solicitor advised that the County Council's Procedures Committee had, in his view, taken reasonable steps to ensure that no conflict arose. Recognising the need for Members to exercise caution in the use of their locality budgets in the period leading up to the County Council elections on 4 June 2009, that Committee had determined that approval to allocations could only be given by County Committees before 9 April 2009 and that, thereafter, the use of any such funds in 2008/9 or 2009/10 would be embargoed until after the June elections. Similarly, Members were not permitted to give any undertaking as to the allocation of funds in that period.

Members were therefore of the view that there had been no conflict of interest and that in restricting the use of these funds for a period well in advance of the Notice of Election the County Council had acted responsibly and no further action was required; the suggestion of the District Council that allocation of such funds should be prohibited for up to 12 months before election was regarded as excessive.

The meeting started at 2.15pm and ended at 3.03pm.

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Date Published: Fri Jul 03 2009