

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE
4th FEBRUARY 2005**

RICHARDSON CASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Members of recent advice given to all Councillors as a result of the Richardson case.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the advice be endorsed.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1** One of the main areas of local government activity, which has resulted in a high number of maladministration decisions, is the granting or refusal of planning applications. In particular, the role of Members in respect of lobbying and declarations of interest has been of particular importance.
- 3.2** A recent Court of Appeal judgement in respect of a North Yorkshire Councillor has clarified the position as to whether a Member's individual private rights override their public duty. The Court of Appeal did not find in favour of the Councillor.
- 3.3** As a result of the decision a briefing note was prepared and distributed to all Councillors. A copy of that briefing note is appended to this report.

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