

MINUTES OF: STANDARDS BOARD PANEL

Date of Meeting: 29th January 2009

**Present: Mr A Neville, Independent Member (in the Chair)
Councillor G Morris, Rossendale Borough Council
Councillor J Grogan, Whitworth Town Council**

**In Attendance: Mrs L Fisher, Investigator
Mrs C Birtwistle, Legal Adviser
Mrs H Moore, Hearing Administrator**

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made by Panel Members.

2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Resolved:

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves disclosure of exempt information relating to an individual under Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

3. HEARING IN RELATION TO A POSSIBLE BREACH OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT – CASE REFERENCE Z46/1/2

The Panel considered a complaint against Councillor Ronald Alan Neal in respect of an alleged breach of the Rossendale Borough Council Code of Conduct for Members. The Panel conducted the Hearing in accordance with the Council's approved procedures.

It was determined:

1. That Councillor Neal did send inappropriate email content in the course of Council business which detailed an unsupported allegation that officers accepted financial incentives from third parties. This failed to treat others with respect and brought the Council into disrepute.
2. That Councillor Neal be suspended as a Borough and Town Councillor with immediate effect until 12 noon on 18th February 2009 and upon resuming duties he be required to undertake training.

The meeting started at 3.00pm and ended at 5.15pm