



Leicester
City Council

MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2008
TIME: 5.30 PM
**PLACE: COMMITTEE ROOM 2, TOWN HALL, TOWN HALL SQUARE,
LEICESTER**

Members of the Committee

Mrs Sheila Brucciani (Independent Chair)
Ms Kate McLeod (Independent Member)
Ms Mary Ray (Independent Member)

Councillors Blower, Clair, Corrall, Draycott, Keeling, Mugglestone

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

for Town Clerk

Officer contact: Heather Kent
Committee Services, Resources Department
Leicester City Council
Town Hall, Town Hall Square, Leicester LE1 9BG
(Tel. 0116 229 8816 Fax. 0116 247 1181)

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND MEETINGS

You have the right to attend Cabinet to hear decisions being made. You can also attend Committees, as well as meetings of the full Council.

There are procedures for you to ask questions and make representations to Scrutiny Committees, and Council. Please contact Committee Services, as detailed below for further guidance on this.

You also have the right to see copies of agendas and minutes. Agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website at www.cabinet.leicester.gov.uk or by contacting us as detailed below.

Dates of meetings are available at the Customer Service Centre (New Walk Centre, King Street), Town Hall Reception and on the Website.

There are certain occasions when the Council's meetings may need to discuss issues in private session. The reasons for dealing with matters in private session are set down in law.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS

Meetings are held at the Town Hall. The Meeting rooms are all accessible to wheelchair users. Wheelchair access to the Town Hall is from Horsefair Street (Take the lift to the ground floor and go straight ahead to main reception).

BRAILLE/AUDIO TAPE/TRANSLATION

If there are any particular reports that you would like translating or providing on audio tape, the Committee Services Officer can organise this for you (production times will depend upon equipment/facility availability).

INDUCTION LOOPS

There are induction loop facilities in meeting rooms. Please speak to the Committee Services Officer at the meeting if you wish to use this facility or contact them as detailed below.

General Enquiries - if you have any queries about any of the above or the business to be discussed, please contact Heather Kent, Committee Services on (0116) 229 8816 or email heather.kent@leicester.gov.uk or call in at the Town Hall.

Press Enquiries - please phone the Communications Unit on 252 6081

PUBLIC SESSION

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are asked to declare any interests they may have in the business on the agenda, and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to them.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING **Appendix A**

The minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 9 July 2008 are attached and Members are asked to confirm them as a correct record.

4. VERBAL UPDATE ON ISSUES FROM LAST MEETING

The Monitoring Officer will give a verbal update on the following issues that were discussed at the last meeting:

- Political Conventions
- Training on the Assessment of Complaints
- Publicity

5. STANDARDS COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEES **Appendix B
CHANGES TO TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Monitoring Officer submits a report that brings back to the Committee for endorsement prior to forwarding to full Council for agreement the Terms of Reference of the Committee and its Sub-Committee incorporating amendments proposed at the meeting of the Committee held on 9th July, 2008. The Committee is recommended to consider the proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference to the Committee and Sub-Committee for referral to Council for formal approval.

6. LOCAL ASSESSMENT OF COMPLAINTS - MAKING **Appendix C
THE NEW SYSTEM WORK**

The Monitoring Officer submits a report that enables Members to review practical issues which have emerged since May when the Council was obliged to introduce a new system for the local assessment of complaints against elected members; to understand concerns which have been raised by members and to consider officer proposals for implementing essential legal requirements and statutory guidance in a way which ensures that the new

system is both effective and fair.

7. GRANTING AND SUPERVISION OF EXEMPTIONS FROM POLITICAL RESTRICTION [Appendix D](#)

The Monitoring Officer submits a report that provides the Committee with guidance as to how to perform its new statutory role of considering applications from officers for exemption from political restriction. The Committee is recommended to note the legal position and guidance presented in the report.

8. QUARTERLY RETURN TO THE STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND [Appendix E](#)

The Monitoring Officer submits a report that reports on the quarterly return for the Standards Board for England with regard to the local assessment of complaints. The Committee is asked to note the report.

9. STANDARDS ACTIVITIES 2008-09 [Appendix F](#)

The Monitoring Officer submits a report that draws together various strands of work relating to standards and ethical governance for Members. The Committee is recommended to note the recommendations from the CPA report relating to the Standards Committee, note the "Good Governance in Local Government" action plan summary, and consider how best to develop the initiatives into a work programme for the committee.

10. GUIDANCE FOR ASSESSMENT OF COMPLAINTS FOR THE STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE

The Monitoring Officer submits a reference pack for Members of the Standards Committee that contains information and guidance for Members to use whilst carrying out assessments and investigations. The Committee is recommended to note the information contained in the packs and agree to use them as reference in Standards Sub-Committee meetings. The packs will be circulated at the meeting.

11. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Members are asked to agree dates for meetings of the Standards Committee for the rest of the municipal year.

12. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

13. PRIVATE SESSION

AGENDA

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO NOTE

Under the law, the Cabinet is entitled to consider certain items in private. Members of the public will be asked to leave the meeting when such items are discussed.

The Cabinet is recommended to consider the following reports in private on the grounds that they contain 'exempt' information as defined by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, as amended and consequently that the Cabinet makes the following resolution:-

"that the press and public be excluded during consideration of the following reports in accordance with the provisions of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, because they involve the likely disclosure of 'exempt' information, as defined in the Paragraphs detailed below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and taking all the circumstances into account, it is considered that the public interest in maintaining the information as exempt outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Paragraph 1

Information relating to an individual.

14. APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM POLITICAL RESTRICTION

Appendix B1

The Monitoring Officer submits a report.

