



Leicester
City Council

MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 15 JULY 2009

TIME: 5.30 PM

PLACE: COMMITTEE ROOM 2, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL

Members of the Committee

Councillors Corrall, Draycott, Keeling, Scuplak, Shelton and Thomas

Mrs Sheila Brucciani (Independent Member) (Chair)

Ms Kate McLeod (Independent Member)

Ms Mary Ray (Independent Member)

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

for Director of Resources

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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, Democratic Support 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 13 May 2009, are attached and Members are asked to confirm them as a correct record.

4. MEMBERSHIP OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Members are asked to note the membership of the Standards Committee, as detailed on the front of the agenda.

5. TERMS OF REFERENCE AND ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEES **Appendix B**

Members are asked to note the Terms of Reference for the Standards Committee and to approve the establishment of a Standards Sub-Committee (Initial Assessment) and a Standards Sub-Committee (Review), with the Terms of Reference as attached.

6. DISCUSSION WITH THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chief Executive has been invited to the meeting to discuss with Members issues of Standards and Ethics throughout the Authority.

7. REVISIONS TO CODE OF PRACTICE FOR MEMBER INVOLVEMENT IN DEVELOPMENT CONTROL DECISIONS **Appendix C**

The Director of Legal Services submits a report that enables the necessary approvals to be given for further revisions to be made to the Council's current Code of Practice for Member Involvement in Development Control Decisions. The Standards Committee is asked to note the proposed revisions and comments of the Planning and Development Control Committee and confirm its agreement to the revised Code of Practice being submitted to Council.

8. CODE OF PRACTICE - MEMBER INVOLVEMENT IN LICENSING DECISION-MAKING

The Director of Legal Services asks the Standards Committee to note the following:

The Director of Legal Services has prepared a draft Code which has been the subject of initial comment from the Chair of the Licensing Committee and the Head of Licensing. There is already in existence a Council Code of Practice on Hearings to meet the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003 and it makes sense to ensure that the Member Code does not duplicate the existing Code and vice versa. Both Codes will now be reviewed and it is envisaged that a report will come back to your September committee meeting and a future Licensing Committee meeting detailing the way forward.

9. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE ANNUAL REPORT [Appendix D](#)

The Director of Resources submits a report that enables compliance with the requirements of the Council's Corporate Governance Code by carrying out an annual review, reports the position regarding Local Government Ombudsman complaints and informs the Council's Annual Governance Statement. The Standards Committee is recommended to review the position as summarised in this annual report and to forward any comments to Cabinet for consideration.

Appendix 2 of the report is available to view on the Council's Website only, at the following link:

<http://www.cabinet.leicester.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=124&MId=2877&Ver=4>

10. STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND GUIDANCE ON OTHER ACTION [Appendix E](#)

The Director of Legal Services submits a document from the Standards Board for England that contains guidance on other action for initial assessments and reviews of complaints against Councillors. The Standards Committee is asked to note the guidance.

11. NEW REGULATIONS AND GUIDANCE ON DISPENSATIONS [Appendix F](#)

The Director of Legal Services submits a document from the Standards Board for England that gives guidance relating to the new regulations on the granting of dispensations for members, allowing them to speak and vote at a meeting when they have a prejudicial interest. The Standards Committee is asked to note the guidance.

12. STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND BULLETIN 44 [Appendix G](#)

The Director of Legal Services submits the Standards Board for England Bulletin 44. The Standards Committee is asked to note the contents of the

bulletin.

13. STANDARDS COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME [Appendix H](#)

The Director of Legal Services submits a work programme for the Standards Committee for the municipal year 2009-10. The Standards Committee is recommended to note the work programme.

14. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS