



Leicester
City Council

MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 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 Democratic Services

Officer contact: Heather Kent
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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 Democratic Support, 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 Democratic 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 Democratic 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 if Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to them.

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

The minutes of the meetings of the Standards Committee, held on 15 July 2009 and 11 August 2009 are attached, and the Committee is asked to confirm them as correct records.

4. DISCUSSION WITH THE LORD MAYOR

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Roger Blackmore, has been invited to the meeting to discuss issues of standards and ethics within the Council and Full Council meetings.

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

The Director of Legal Services submits amended Terms of Reference for the Standards Sub-Committee (Initial Assessment) and Standards Sub-Committee (Review), following comments at a previous meeting of the Standards Committee. Members are recommended to approve the Terms of Reference.

6. LOCAL DEMOCRACY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION BILL **Appendix C**

The Director of Legal Services submits a report that provides members of the Standards Committee with background on the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill currently going through Parliament. Members are recommended to note the report.

7. STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND - YEARLY RETURN SUBMISSION STATISTICS 2008-09 **Appendix D**

The Director of Legal Services submits a report that provides information on the Standards Board for England's analysis of complaints relating to the Code of Conduct. Members are asked to note the report.

8. ETHICAL GOVERNANCE REPORT - AUDIT COMMISSION

Appendix E

The Director of Legal Services submits a report that considers the Audit Commission's report on Leicester City Council's approach to ethical governance. Members are recommended to note the report and consider how they wish to take forward the recommendations contained in the Audit Commission report.

9. DELEGATED DECISION-MAKING TO CABINET MEMBERS

The Director of Legal Services will give a verbal outline regarding amendments to the delegated authority that will reside with Cabinet Leads. Members are recommended to note the verbal report.

10. ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

The Standards Committee is asked to consider whether it wishes to submit an annual report to Council on the work of the Committee, what this report should include, and when they wish this report to be submitted.

11. LGIU POLICY BRIEFING - PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF ETHICS

Appendix F

The Director of Legal Services submits a policy briefing from the Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) that presents findings of the Standards for England June 2009 research undertaken to monitor and identify changes over time in levels of public trust and expectations in Member conduct. Members are recommended to note the briefing.

12. STANDARDS FOR ENGLAND BULLETIN 45

Appendix G

The Director of Legal Services submits the latest Bulletin from Standards for England. Members are recommended to discuss and 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. Members are recommended to note the work programme.

14. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS