



Leicester
City Council

MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2012

TIME: 5.30 PM

PLACE: FOUNTAIN ROOM, GROUND FLOOR, TOWN HALL

Members of the Committee

Councillors Naylor, Osman, Porter, Thomas, Westley and Willmott

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 the Monitoring Officer

Officer contact: Heather Kent
Democratic Support,
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. Tweeting in formal Council meetings is fine as long as it does not disrupt the meeting. There are procedures for you to ask questions and make representations to Scrutiny Committees, Community Meetings 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, 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 that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to them.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee, held on 23 November 2011, have been previously circulated and Members are asked to confirm that they are correct.

**4. LOCAL ASSESSMENT OF COMPLAINTS - SUMMARY [Appendix A](#)
JULY 2011 TO DECEMBER 2011**

The Monitoring Officer submits a report that asks the Committee to note the number and progress of complaints against councillors received during the period July to December 2011.

5. PROBITY TRAINING FOR PLANNING OFFICERS

In response to consideration at the last meeting of the Standards Committee of a matter referred from Audit and Risk Committee regarding member involvement in staff disciplinary matters, the Head of Litigation asks the Committee to note that probity training has been given to planning officers. This has been reported to the Chairs of the Audit and Risk and Planning Committees and the relevant Assistant City Mayors.

6. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

7. PRIVATE SESSION

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO NOTE

Under the law, the Committee 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 Committee 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 any individual.

Paragraph 2

Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

Paragraph 7c

The deliberations of a standards committee or of a sub-committee of a standards committee established under the provisions of Part 3 of the Local Government Act 2000 in reaching any finding on a matter referred under the provisions of section 60(2) or (3), 64(2), 70(4) or (5) or 71(2) of that Act.

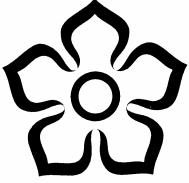
**8. COMPLAINT AGAINST A COUNCILLOR: TO
CONSIDER THE INVESTIGATOR'S FINDINGS**

Appendix B1

The Monitoring Officer submits a report.

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Appendix A



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
All wards

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:
Standards Committee

18 January 2012

**LOCAL ASSESSMENT OF COMPLAINTS
SUMMARY JULY 2011 TO DECEMBER 2011**

Report of the Monitoring Officer

1. Purpose of Report

To note the number and progress of complaints against councillors received in the second six months of 2011.

2. Recommendations

Members are asked to note the report.

3. Report

- 3.1 At its meeting on 16 March 2011, the Standards Committee asked for a standing item on future agendas giving a summary of complaints received and how they have progressed. At its meeting on 14 July 2011, the Committee agreed to receive an update report every six months. This is the second of such reports, and includes all complaints received since 1 July 2011.
- 3.2 Between 1 July 2011 and 30 December 2011, we received four new complaints against councillors. There were also two complaints that had not yet been considered that were received prior to 1 July and three ongoing investigations. These complaints have progressed as shown in Appendix 1 of this report.
- 3.3 In this period two investigations relating to three complaints were completed and considered by the Standards Committee. The Committee agreed, in both cases, with the investigator's findings of no breach.
- 3.4 In this period one complaint has been referred for investigation and this is nearing completion. It is anticipated that the investigator's report will be submitted to the Standards Committee on 18 January 2012.

3.5 Attached at Appendix 2 is a chart that allows comparison of the number of complaints received in the first and second six months each year since the start of the local assessment of complaints.

4. FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

4.1. Financial Implications

Efforts have been made to minimise costs by carrying out investigations in-house instead of appointing an external investigator.

4.2. Legal Implications

There are no additional legal implications relating to this report.

4.3. Climate Change Implications

This report does not contain any significant climate change implications and therefore should not have a detrimental effect on the Council’s climate change targets.
Helen Lansdown, Senior Environmental Consultant - Sustainable Procurement

5. Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/ NO	Paragraph/References Within the Report
Equal Opportunities	N	
Policy	N	
Sustainable and Environmental	N	
Crime and Disorder	N	
Human Rights Act	N	
Elderly/People on Low Income	N	
Corporate Parenting	N	
Health Inequalities Impact	N	

6. Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972

Nil

7. Report Author

Heather Kent, Democratic Services Officer

Appendix 1

Complaints 1 July to 30 December 2011

Complaint No	Assessment	Review	Investigation	Outcome	Summary of allegation
<i>Complaints received before July, but completed in this period</i>					
1	Prior to this period – refer for investigation	No – straight to investigation	Yes	No action	Disclosure of confidential information
2	Prior to this period – refer for investigation	No – straight to investigation	Yes	No action	Disclosure of confidential information
3	Prior to this period – refer for investigation	No – straight to investigation	Yes	No action	Misuse of position to the disadvantage of an individual by gaining information.
9	Yes – no action	Yes – other action	No	Other action	Predetermination and prejudice with regard to comments made outside a regulatory meeting.
10	Yes – no action	No	No	No action	“Spying” during the local election and refusal to respond to queries.
<i>New complaints</i>					
11	Yes – no action	No	No	No action	Inappropriate involvement in the complainant’s family issues, including misuse of position and bullying and intimidation.
12	Yes – refer for investigation	No	Yes (nearing completion)	Pending	Misuse of position in relation the waiver of parking fines and the use of parking exemption permits.
13	Yes – no action	No	No	No action	Unfair treatment, discrimination, personal bias, victimisation and political bullying.
14	13 January 2012			Pending	Actions of two councilors in the determination of a regulatory matter.

Appendix 2

Comparison of volume of complaints received

	2008	2009	2009	2010	2010	2011	2011
	Jul- Dec	Jan - Jun	Jul- Dec	Jan- Jun	Jul- Dec	Jan-Jun	Jul-Dec
Complaints received	16	2	0	3	9	10	4
Complaints not progressed	4	0	0	0	2	1	0
Assessments	12	2	0	3	7	9	6
Reviews	7	1	0	2	2	1	1
Complaints referred for investigation	1	0	0	1	0	3 (2 investigations)	1
Hearings	0	0	0	0	0	1	0