



Leicester
City Council

MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

DATE: THURSDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2002
TIME: 5.30 PM
**PLACE: COMMITTEE ROOM 1, 'B' BLOCK, NEW WALK CENTRE,
KING STREET, LEICESTER**

Members of the Committee

Councillors Coley, Draycott, and O'Brien
Ms. Jill Bellingham (Independent Member) (Chair for this meeting)
Mrs. Caroline Roberts (Independent Member)

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

for Town Clerk

*Officer contact: Frances Wake
Committee Services, Town Clerk's Department
Leicester City Council
New Walk Centre, Welford Place, Leicester LE1 6ZG
(Tel. 0116 252 6028 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 Scrutiny Committees, as well as meetings of the full Council. You can ask questions and make representations to Scrutiny Committees and Council. You also have the right to see copies of agendas and minutes. Dates of meetings are available at the Customer Service Centre. There are, however, 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

The Committee Rooms at New Walk Centre are all accessible to wheelchair users. If wheelchair access is required for Council meetings, which are held at the Town Hall, please contact Charles Poole on 252 7015 or call in at the Customer Service Centre.

BRAILLE/AUDIO TAPE

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

General Enquiries - if you have any queries about any of the above or the business to be discussed, please contact Frances Wake, Committee Administrator on (0116) 252 6028 or call in at the Customer Service Centre.

Press Enquiries - please phone the Communications Unit on 252 6081

PUBLIC SESSION

AGENDA

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Appendix A

The Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Committee held on 9 January 2002 and the special meeting of the Committee held on 29 July 2002, are attached and the Committee is asked to confirm them as a correct record.

3. COMPLAINTS AGAINST MEMBERS

Appendix B

The Town Clerk submits a report which reviews the approach to complaints against Members, in the light of the Standards Board's procedures. The Committee is asked to give guidance on the preferred approach, so far as imminent Regulations permit.

4. DISPENSATIONS

Appendix C

The Town Clerk submits a report informing the Committee of its power to grant Dispensations with regard to interests both to Members of the Council and voting co-opted members. The report also details the arrangements to ensure adherence to this process. The Committee is asked to note the Regulations, endorse the need for all Members to review their potential need for dispensation, particularly well in advance of the budget consideration; and note that consideration of dispensation requests will in future appear as a Standard item on the Committee's agenda and is likely to form a significant part of the next two agendas. The Committee is also asked to note the likelihood of the need for urgent meetings to consider dispensation applications should there be a change in Members' circumstances.

5. TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Appendix D

The Town Clerk submits a report proposing a forward programme of training and development for Members of the Standards Committee, Elected Members and officers of the Council to ensure that matters of probity and Standards of Conduct are embedded within the organisation. The Committee is asked to comment on the proposed programme.

6. OVERVIEW OF COMMITTEE'S CURRENT ROLE AND WAYS OF RAISING ITS PROFILE

Appendix E

The Town Clerk submits a report which reviews the current role of the Standards Committee and the way in which its profile can be raised. The Committee is asked to comment on the proposals in the report.

7. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

8. PRIVATE SESSION

AGENDA

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, and consequently that the Committee 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."

Paragraph 1

Information relating to a particular employee, former employee or applicant to become an employee of, or a particular office holder, former office-holder or applicant to become an office holder under the authority.

9. AGENDA NOTE: COMPLAINTS RELATING TO ELECTED MEMBERS

The Town Clerk will brief Members regarding the numbers and nature of complaints against Elected Members received since the adoption by the Council of the new National Code of Conduct and revised Political Conventions in November 2001.