

AGENDA

Meeting: **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**
Place: **Committee Room III - County Hall, Bythesea Road,
Trowbridge**
Date: **Wednesday 10 March 2010**
Time: **2.00 pm**

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Yamina Rhouati, of Democratic and Members' Services, County Hall, Trowbridge, direct line 01225 718371 or email yamina.rhouati@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225)713114/713115.

All public reports referred to on this agenda are available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

Membership:

Wiltshire Council Members

Cllr Nigel Carter, Cllr Ernie Clark, Cllr Peter Fuller, Cllr Malcolm Hewson,
Cllr Julian Johnson and Cllr Ian McLennan

Town/Parish Council Co-opted Members

Mr William Bailey, Mr Craig McCallum, Mr Paul Neale, Mr Robert Oglesby JP,
Mr John Scragg, Miss Pam Turner, Mr Keith Wallace and
His Hon David MacLaren Webster QC

Independent Co-opted Members

Mrs Jane Bayley, Mr Michael Cronin, Mr Philip Gill MBE JP, Mrs Isabel McCord
(Chairman), Mr Ian McGill CBE, Mr Stuart Middleton, Mr Gerry Robson OBE
(Vice-Chair) and Mr Keith Shipman

Part 1

Items to be considered while the meeting is open to the public

1. **Apologies**

2. **Minutes of previous meeting** (*Pages 1 - 8*)

To confirm and sign the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 3 February 2010.

3. **Chairman's announcements**

4. **Declarations of Interest**

To receive any declarations of personal or prejudicial interests.

5. **Public participation**

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public.

If you would like to make a statement at this meeting on any item on this agenda, please register to do so at least 10 minutes prior to the meeting. Up to 3 speakers are permitted to speak for up to 3 minutes each on any agenda item. The Chairman will, however, exercise her discretion in order to ensure that members of the public have the opportunity to contribute.

Members of the public wishing to ask a question should give written notice (including details of any question) to the officer named above by **12.00 noon on Monday 8 March**.

6. **Minutes of Sub-committees** (*Pages 9 - 24*)

The Committee is asked to receive and note the minutes of the following Sub-Committee:

Dispensations Sub Committee - 11 November 2009, 26 November 2009 & 8 January 2010.

Items for Action

7. **Standards Committee Plan 2010-14** (*Pages 25 - 32*)

To consider the report of the Monitoring Officer which incorporates the following items from the Committee's work plan:

- Presentation to Area Boards
- Informing and engaging the public – programme of events

The Committee will also be asked to consider its work plan taking into account the priorities identified within the 2010-14 Plan.

8. **Size and composition of the Standards Committee**

The Committee has previously undertaken to review the size of the Committee in the light of experience and the term of office of its Independent members. The Committee agreed in September 2009 to defer consideration of a report on the term of office of Independent members until members had served a year in office given that the first meeting of the Committee had only taken place in July 2009.

Officers will be preparing a report on the composition of the Committee dealing with both the size of the Committee and the term of office of its Independent members to the September 2010 meeting using the experience gained over what will be then, the past full year of operating a 22 strong Committee.

The Chairman will initiate a preliminary discussion to help inform the report to the September meeting.

9. **Venues of Standards Committee Hearings** (*Pages 33 - 36*)

Report by the Head of Governance

10. **Timescales for Local Investigation and Determination** (*Pages 37 - 56*)

Report by the Monitoring Officer.

11. **Draft Annual Report of the Standards Committee 2009/10** (*Pages 57 - 66*)

The Committee's views are sought on the attached draft Annual Report of the Committee which covers the period 2009/10. The report will be updated to reflect the outcomes of this meeting and the Committee is asked to authorise the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chairman to finalise the report on its behalf.

Items for Information

12. **Culture Change Programme**

The Monitoring Officer will update the Committee on the Culture Change Programme and arrangements for Councillor Laura Mayes, Portfolio Holder for Organisational Culture to give a presentation to a future meeting of the Committee on the Culture Change Programme.

13. **Report of the Task and Finish Group on Training Needs Analysis**

A verbal update on progress made by the Task and Finish Group.

14. **Status Report on Complaints made under the Code of Conduct** (*Pages 67 - 70*)

To note the summary of the Code of Conduct complaints received by the Monitoring Officer since 1 April 2009.

15. **Anonymous Digest of Code of Conduct Cases** (*Pages 71 - 72*)

Examples of cases.

16. **Standards for England Bulletin No. 47** (*Pages 73 - 82*)

To consider the latest Bulletin from Standards for England and discuss any issues arising from it.

17. **Urgent Items**

Any other items of business, which in the opinion of the Chairman, should be taken as a matter of urgency. Urgent items of a confidential nature may be considered under Part II of this agenda.

Part II

Items during whose consideration it is recommended that the public should be excluded because of the likelihood that exempt information would be disclosed

None

Would Committee members please note that we will be taking photographs for inclusion in the Committee's Annual Report at the end of the meeting.