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AGENDA

Meeting: STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Place: County Hall, Trowbridge
Committee Room: Committee Room 5, County Hall
Date: Wednesday 4 July 2007
Time: 2.30pm

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Yamina Rhouati of Democratic & Members' Services, County Hall, Trowbridge, direct line (01225) 713011 or e-mail yaminarhouati@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/council.htm

Membership:

County Councillors

Mr M Hewson
Mrs P Rugg

Independent Co-opted Members

Ms C O'Sullivan (Vice Chairman)
Mr P Lefever
Mr K Shipman
Mrs I McCord

PART I

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

1. **Election of Chairman**

To elect a Chairman for the forthcoming year.

2. **Election of Vice-Chairman**

To elect a Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year.

3. **Apologies**

4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

To confirm and sign the minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 18 April 2007 (copy attached).

5. **Chairman's Announcements**

6. **Members' Interests**

To receive any declarations of personal or prejudicial interests or dispensations granted by the Standards Committee.

7. **Public Participation**

The County Council welcomes contributions from members of the public. This meeting is open to members of the public who may ask a question or make a statement. Written notice of questions or statements should be given to the officer named above by 12.00 noon on Monday 2 July 2007. Speakers are limited to two minutes.

8. **Review of Arrangements for involvement of Members in the Decision Making Process**

Report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services is circulated.

9. **Proposed Amendments to the Constitution**

To consider the following issues and recommend to Council the consequential changes to the Constitution:

(a) New Code of Conduct for Members

A report of the Monitoring Officer is circulated.

Members are reminded that briefing sessions on the new Code of Conduct have been arranged for all members and co-opted members as follows:

Thursday 28 June at 1pm
Friday 29 June at 11am

(b) The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill – Increasing the Size of the Standards Committee

A report of the Monitoring Officer is circulated which recommends increasing the size of the Standards Committee.

(c) Revised Grievance Procedure

The Committee's views are sought on the report considered by the Staffing and Policy Committee on 27 June in so far as it relates to amendments to the Constitution.

10. Draft Annual Report of the Standards Committee

A copy of the draft Annual Report is circulated for members of the Committee only for the Committee's approval prior to publication.

11. Statement of Internal Control

A report by the Deputy Monitoring Officer to the Final Accounts and Audit Committee on 28 June is circulated for the Committee's information and comment in relation to any ethical governance issues. The Committee's attention is drawn particularly to paragraphs 23 -24 (Section C, page 6) and paragraph 54 (Section D, page 11) of the draft Statement on Internal Control at Appendix 1 of the report.

12. Review of Governance and Reporting Structure

A report by the Monitoring Officer to the Final Accounts and Audit Committee on 28 June 2007 is circulated for the Committee's information.

13. Local Government Ombudsman Complaints – Status Report

A report by the Monitoring Officer is circulated for the period January – June 2007.

14. Adjudication Panel Case

A report by the Corporate Standards Manager is circulated for information.

15. **Notes of the Independent Members' Forum**

To receive the notes of the Independent Members' Forum held on 20 April 2007. The Committee was represented at the Forum by Mr McGuigan and Mr Shipman.

16. **Attendance at the Standards Board Roadshow – 26 June**

Mrs O'Sullivan and Mr Lefever will report on their attendance at the recent Standards Board Roadshow.

17. **Urgent Items**

Any items of business which the Chairman wishes to consider as a matter of urgency.