



website: www.wiltshire.gov.uk

AGENDA

Meeting: STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Place: County Hall, Trowbridge
Committee Room: Committee Room 5, County Hall
Date: Wednesday 18 June 2008
Time: 2.30pm

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Yamina Rhouati of Democratic & Members' Services, County Hall, Trowbridge, direct line (01225) 718024 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
Mrs M White
Mr E Clark

Independent Co-opted Members

Ms C O'Sullivan
Mr P Lefever
Mr K Shipman
Mrs I McCord
Mr P McGuigan

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 and Membership of Committee**

To note the following membership changes since the last meeting:

The resignation of Mrs L Liptrot (Independent member)

The appointment of Mr E Clark (member of Council)

4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

To confirm and sign the minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 23 January 2008 (copy attached).

5. **Chairman's Announcements**

6. **Members' Interests**

To receive any declarations of personal or prejudicial interests.

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 16 June 2008. Speakers are limited to two minutes.

8. **Re-Appointment of Sub-Committees**

Report by the Monitoring Officer is circulated.

9. **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.

10. **Local Assessment of Complaints**

Report by the Deputy Monitoring Officer is circulated.

A copy of the Guidance on the Local Assessments of Complaints issued by the Standards Board for England and The Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 are enclosed separately for the Committee's information and future reference.

11. **Finding of Maladministration – Report by the Local Authority Ombudsman**

Report by the Ombudsman and covering report by the Monitoring Officer are circulated as considered by Cabinet on 20 May 2008. The subsequent Cabinet minute is also circulated for the Committee's information.

12. **Local Government Ombudsman Complaints – Status Report**

A report by the Monitoring Officer is circulated for the period July 2007 – June 2008 to follow.

13. **Register of Interests and Gifts and Hospitality**

Officers can confirm that all members and co-opted members of the Council have submitted completed register of interest forms made under the new Code of Conduct and made within the prescribed timescale.

In accordance with the Committee's previous request, a letter will be issued to Members shortly to remind them to update their Register of Interest forms if appropriate and of their obligation to complete the relevant form in respect of gifts and hospitality worth £25 or over and received in connection with their official duties.

14. **One Council For Wiltshire – Progress Report**

For the Committee's information, attached is a progress report on arrangements for One Council for Wiltshire which will be considered by the Implementation Executive on 17 June 2008.

Previous progress reports and other associated reports of the Implementation Executive can be accessed on the following link:

<http://194.72.162.210/documents/dscgi/ds.py/View/Collection-1477>

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

To receive and note the minutes of the Independent Members' Forum held on 29 February 2008. The next meeting of the Forum will be held on 26 September 2008 at Cherwell District Council offices (Banbury, Oxford).

16. **The Bulletin - No.'s 37 & 38**

To receive the attached Bulletin No. 37 dated February 2008 and Bulletin No. 38 dated April 2008 from the Standards Board for England.

17. **The Committee's Work Plan**

The Committee will be invited to consider drawing up its work plan – details attached.

18. **Date of Next Meeting**

The Committee will be asked to consider bringing the date of the next meeting forward from 1 October to 24 September 2008. This will allow the Committee to comment on the final Annual Governance Statement which will be presented for approval to the Final Accounts and Audit Committee on 30 September 2008.

19. **Urgent Items**

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