

AGENDA

Meeting: STANDARDS COMMITTEE (Special Meeting)

Place: County Hall, Trowbridge

Committee Room: 5

Date: Monday 10 November 2008

Time: 2.00pm

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 (Chairman)
Mrs I McCord
Mr P McGuigan

PART I

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

1. **Apologies**

2. **Membership of Committee**

3. **Attendance of Non-Members of the Committee**

4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

To confirm and sign the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 24 September 2008. (pages 4 – 10)

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 and has agreed to set aside 15 minutes at the beginning of meetings for questions or statements. Members of the public wishing to ask a question or make a statement should give written notice (including details of any question or statement) to the officer named above by **12.00 noon on Thursday 6 November 2008**. Speakers are limited to two minutes.

8. **Annual Letter of the Local Government Ombudsman 2007/2008**

Report of the Ombudsman is attached for the Committee's information together with a covering report from the Monitoring Officer (pages 11 – 19)

The Wiltshire District Council Standards Committee members have been invited to attend this meeting to participate in the discussion on item 9.

9. **Terms of Reference and Composition of Wiltshire Council's Standards Committee – Outcome of Consultation**

Report by the Monitoring Officer is attached (pages 20 – 48)

10. **Communities in Control: Real People, Real Power: Codes of Conduct for Local Authority Members and Employees – A Consultation**

To consider the attached letter from the Department of Communities and Local Government which draws attention to a consultation document also attached on proposals to revise the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 and the Relevant Authorities (General Principles) Order

2001 and proposal to introduce a model code of conduct for local Government employees (pages 49 – 87)

For the Committee's assistance, a draft response to the consultation will be sent to Members prior to the meeting for their consideration.

11. **The Local Assessment Criteria**

Report by the Deputy Monitoring Officer is attached (pages 88 – 92).

12. **Constitution – Progress Report**

For the Committee's information, the report presented to the Implementation Executive on 29 October together with the subsequent minute are attached (pages 93 – 115)

13. **Effectiveness of Whistleblowing Policy**

Report by the Monitoring Officer is attached (pages 116 - 117)

14. **Standards Board for England (SBE) – 7th Annual Assembly**

On the Committee's behalf, the Chairman and Corporate Standards Manager attended the SBE's 7th Annual Assembly held between 13-14th October.

(a) Chairman's feedback (pages 118 – 120)

(b) Conference Newsletter from the SBE (pages 121 – 124)

15. **Independent Members' Forum – 26 September 2008**

To consider the minutes of the Forum dated 26 September 2008, previously circulated and attached for ease of reference (pages 125 – 128)

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

The Committee will be invited to review its work plan (page 129)

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