

Standards Committee

Agenda

Date: Monday, 18th May, 2009
Time: 10.30 am
Venue: Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach
CW11 1HZ

The agenda is divided into 2 parts. Part 1 is taken in the presence of the public and press. Part 2 items will be considered in the absence of the public and press for the reasons indicated on the agenda and at the foot of each report.

PART 1 – MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS PRESENT

1. **Apologies for Absence**

2. **Declarations of Interest**

To provide an opportunity for Members and Officers to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests in any item on the agenda

3. **Public Speaking Time/Open Session**

In accordance with Procedure Rules Nos.11 and 35 a total period of 10 minutes is allocated for members of the public to address the Committee on any matter relevant to the work of the Committee.

Individual members of the public may speak for up to 5 minutes but the Chairman will decide how the period of time allocated for public speaking will be apportioned where there are a number of speakers.

Note: In order for officers to undertake any background research it would be helpful if questions were submitted at least one working day before the meeting.

4. **Minutes of Previous meeting (Pages 1 - 4)**

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th March 2009.

5. **Publicity Working Group** (Pages 5 - 10)

5.1 **Minutes of Meetings of the Publicity Working Group held on 10th March and 28th April 2009 respectively**

5.2 **Complaints Procedure**

The Publicity Working Group is in the process of developing a “user-friendly” leaflet for members of the public. This will identify key issues and provide a simplified explanation of how to make a complaint. The attached will form part of that leaflet and is for Members’ consideration.

6. **North-West Independent Members Forum** (Pages 11 - 12)

To receive a report following a meeting of the North-West Independent Members’ Forum held at Preston on 21st April 2009.

The Committee is asked to endorse the continued representation of independent members on this Forum as an approved duty under the Scheme of Members’ Allowances 2009/2010.

7. **Pilot Compact (Macclesfield Borough Council/Cheshire Association of Local Councils)** (Pages 13 - 20)

To receive a report which was considered by the Macclesfield Standards Committee at its meeting on 16th March 2009.

The report gives details of progress in respect of a Pilot Compact which was developed in partnership with Standards Committees of Chester, Macclesfield and Vale Royal. Its aim was to reflect the working arrangements between the parties and seek to promote best practice in the support of, and engagement with, the Town and Parish Councils in Cheshire.

8. **Training Needs for Members**

The Committee is invited to consider future training needs for both Members of the Standards Committee itself, and elected Members in general.

9. **Terms of Reference - Assessment Sub-Committee and Hearings Sub-Committee**

The Monitoring Officer to report verbally on practical difficulties encountered with the Terms of Reference for both the Assessment Sub-Committee and the Hearings Sub-Committee.

10. **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

The report relating to the remaining item on the agenda has been withheld from public circulation and deposit pursuant to Section 100(B)(2) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the matters may be determined with the press and public excluded.

The Committee may decide that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item pursuant to Section 100(A)4 of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 2 and 10 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and public interest would not be served in publishing the information.

PART 2 – MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITHOUT THE PUBLIC AND PRESS PRESENT

11. Up-date on Complaints Received under the Code of Conduct (Pages 21 - 22)

To consider the report of the Monitoring Officer which outlines the up-to-date situation in respect of complaints made under the Code of Conduct, which have now transferred to Cheshire East Council.