

Standards Committee

Agenda

Date: Monday, 21st September, 2009
Time: 10.30 am
Venue: Committee Suite 1, 2 and 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 - 8)

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2009.

5. **Dispensations - Rostherne Parish Council** (Pages 9 - 24)

The report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer describes and explains the requests which have been made by each Member of Rostherne Parish Council for a dispensation to enable them to take part in debate and vote upon any matters relating to the Tatton Estate which come before the Parish Council for consideration.

The applications explain that all Members of the Parish Council are tenants of Tatton Estate which owns all property in the parish of Rostherne, with the exception of the Church, the Vicarage and the Swan Hotel.

6. **Handling of Requests for Dispensations** (Pages 25 - 28)

The report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer relates to whether requests for dispensations should continue to be dealt with by the full Standards Committee or delegated to a Sub-Committee of the Standards Committee.

7. **Public Perceptions of Ethics** (Pages 29 - 36)

The report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer outlines the results of the recent biennial survey conducted by Standards for England into the public's perceptions of local councillors' ethical standards and their confidence in the redress mechanisms for dealing with shortcomings in individuals' behaviour.

The findings relate to measures of perceptions taken in June 2009, and comparisons have been made with data collected in 2005 and 2007.

8. **Pilot Compact Update** (Pages 37 - 46)

To receive the notes of the Working Group discussions held on 4th August and 27th August 2009 respectively, together with an Interim Progress Report on the Pilot compact.

Mr David Sayer, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, will report verbally on the deliberations of the Working Group.

9. **Website** (Pages 47 - 48)

To consider a report outlining possible arrangements for the creation of a separate Standards Committee web-page on the Cheshire East Internet.

Members are asked to consider what further action is required to develop the web-page.

10. **Work Programme** (Pages 49 - 50)

A draft Work Programme is enclosed for consideration and approval by the Committee.

11. Training Requirements for Members

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

12. Meeting with Cheshire West and Chester Standards Committee

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman have met with their counter-parts at Cheshire West and Chester Council to discuss matters of common interest.

**PART 2 - MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC
AND PRESS**

There are no Part 2 items.