

# **Standards Committee**

## **Agenda**

---

**Date:** Monday, 23rd November 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. There is no requirement to give notice of the intention to make use of the public speaking provision. However, as a matter of courtesy, a period of 24 hours notice is encouraged.

---

Please contact Carol Jones on 01270 529952  
E-Mail: [carol.jones@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:carol.jones@cheshireeast.gov.uk) with any apologies or requests for further information or to give notice of a question to be asked by a member of the public

Members of the public who wish to ask a question at the meeting should provide 3 clear working days' notice, in writing, to enable an informed answer to be given.

4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** (Pages 1 - 6)

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2009.

5. **Feedback from the Annual Assembly of Standards Committees**  
(Pages 7 - 10)

Mr David Sayer (Vice-Chairman), Councillor Rhoda Bailey and Mrs Teresa Eatough (Parish representative) attended the Annual Assembly of Standards Committees held in Birmingham on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> October.

The Vice-Chairman's report on the Conference is attached for information.

6. **Pilot Compact Working Group** (Pages 11 - 18)

A meeting of the Pilot Compact Working Group was held on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2009. A report of the meeting is attached.

7. **Website Update**

The Council's website was re-branded on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009. A dedicated webpage for the Standards Committee has been created, entitled "Councillor Conduct". The following documents have now been up-loaded –

- Publicity Leaflet on the role of the Standards Committee, created by the Publicity Working Group

This has also been issued to all Parish Clerks, and will be rolled-out to Council contact points and libraries over the next few weeks.

- Complaints Form
- Guidance on Personal and Prejudicial Interests
- Links to other websites; eg Standards for England (formerly Standards Board for England)

8. **Away-Day - 11th December 2009**

The Chairman to report on arrangements for the Away-Day to be held on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> December 2009 in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Crewe.

9. **Partnerships Protocol** (Pages 19 - 24)

At the Annual Assembly, the issue of partnership working was discussed. Standards for England is developing a series of tools which can be used locally to assess and improve local government partnership arrangements.

It has developed a protocol in partnership with Manchester City Council for use by local authorities to encourage high standards of behaviour of those that work in partnerships.

The report of the Monitoring Officer, outlining the proposals, is attached. It is suggested that a Member and Officer working group be established, to include representation from the Partnership Team. The group would use the draft protocol as a framework for development of a local protocol for use across Cheshire East, reporting back to the Committee in due course.

10. **Standards for England - Bulletin 45 (August 2009)** (Pages 25 - 34)

To receive for information The Bulletin (No. 45) issued by Standards for England.

11. **Training for Members**

The Committee is invited to consider any training needs.

Members will recall that training is to be arranged in January/February 2010 following Communities and Local Government's revision to the Code of Conduct.

12. **Conducting Local Assessment**

At the conclusion of the meeting, there will be an opportunity for Members to view a DVD issued by Standards for England. The DVD is scenario-based and shows the behaviour of Councillors, which may breach the Code of Conduct, and how the Assessment Sub-Committee carries out an assessment.