

Standards Committee

Agenda

Date: Monday, 27th September, 2010
Time: 2.00 pm
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 top 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. It is not required to give notice of the intention to make use of public speaking provision; however, as a matter of courtesy, a period of 24 hours notice is encouraged.

Members of the public should provide 3 clear working days notice, in writing, if they wish to ask a question at the meeting, in order for an informed answer to be given.

Please contact Carol Jones on 01270 686471
E-Mail: 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

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

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2010.

MATTERS REQUIRING A DECISION BY THE COMMITTEE

5. **Sub-Committee Terms of Reference** (Pages 5 - 10)

At the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 26 July 2010, the role of each of the Sub-Committees was discussed and clarification sought. The attached report details the Terms of Reference for each of the Sub-Committees of the Standards Committee, namely [(1) Assessment Sub-Committee; (2) Review Sub-Committee; (3) Hearings Sub-Committee, which is divided into the two roles of (i) consideration; and (ii) hearings.

6. **Planning Protocol** (Pages 11 - 32)

To consider the joint report of the Monitoring Officer and the Head of Planning and Policy which proposes amendments to the Planning Protocol adopted by Council on 24th February 2009.

The Committee is invited to commend the revised Planning Protocol to the Constitution Committee for inclusion in the Constitution.

7. **Partnership Protocol** (Pages 33 - 52)

The attached report provides an update on the work undertaken to develop a protocol for values and behaviours for use within partnerships.

The Committee is invited to -

- i) endorse the action taken by the Local Strategic Partnership to integrate the Standards in Partnerships Protocol into the LSP Partnership Agreement;
- ii) request the Head of the Partnership Team to produce an Annual Report for this Committee on the effectiveness of the Partnership Agreement;
- iii) request the Monitoring Officer to promote the agreement across Cheshire East for those Partnerships outside the Local Strategic Partnership Framework; and
- iv) request the Constitution Committee to consider incorporating the agreed Protocol into the Constitution as part of its ongoing review.

8. **ICT Code of Practice for Cheshire East Members** (Pages 53 - 58)

ICT Security Policies have been developed and agreed and a Code of Practice for Staff has been developed to give specific examples and guidance to aid the interpretation of the detailed policies.

A Code of Practice for Members has also been produced to give specific examples. The Committee is asked to adopt the ICT Code of Practice for Members.

9. **Customer Complaints and Local Government Ombudsman Complaints**
(Pages 59 - 64)

At its meeting held on 26 July 2010, the Committee considered a report which provided a summary of complaints dealt with by the Local Government Ombudsman in respect of Cheshire East Council for the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010.

The Committee requested a summary report on both Local Government Ombudsman complaints and customer complaints to be submitted to each meeting of the Committee.

The attached combined report provides a summary of the corporate complaints and Local Government Ombudsman complaints for the period 1 April 2010 to 30 June 2010.

The Committee is asked to note the report and make any comments it considers appropriate.

INFORMATION ITEM

10. **Standards for England - Bulletin 48** (Pages 65 - 68)

To receive the Standards for England Bulletin No. 48.

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11. **Exclusion of 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 matter 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 items pursuant to Section 100(A)4 of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 2 and 7c of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Local Government Act 1972 and the public interest would not be served in publishing the information.

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

12. **Complaints Received Under the Code of Conduct** (Pages 69 - 72)

To consider a report on complaints received under the Code of Conduct.