

# **Standards Committee**

## **Agenda**

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**Date:** Monday, 25th July, 2011  
**Time:** 2.00 pm  
**Venue:** Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach  
CW11 1HZ

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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.

Members of the public wishing to ask a question at the meeting should provide at least three clear working days' notice in writing and should include the question with that notice. This will enable an informed answer to be given. 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.

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Please contact  
E-Mail:

Diane Moulson on 01270 686476  
[diane.moulson@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:diane.moulson@cheshireeast.gov.uk) 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 6 April 2011.

5. **Presentation on the Work of the Standards Committee**

The Borough Solicitor will make a short presentation to inform and update Members on the work of the Committee and the current Standards Regime.

6. **Application for Dispensation for Twemlow Parish Council Members** (Pages 5 - 24)

The report of the Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer describes and explains the requests which have been made by six Members of Twemlow Parish Council for a dispensation to enable them to take part in debate and vote upon any matters relating to the former Oil Depot, Twemlow which is likely to come before the Parish Council for consideration.

7. **The Planning Protocol** (Pages 25 - 46)

A Planning Protocol was adopted as part of the Constitution by the Council in February 2009. Since that time, revisions to the document have been made, the previous version of which came before Standards Committee on 27 September 2010.

The Strategic Planning Board considered the amended Planning Protocol at their meeting of the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2011, and resolved that the amended version of the Planning Protocol should be recommended to the Standards Committee and the Constitution Committee for adoption by the Council and inclusion in the Constitution. The Committee is invited to consider the document.

8. **The Standards Regime - Update on the Localism Bill** (Pages 47 - 58)

The report of the Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer seeks to inform and update Members on developments in respect of anticipated Legislation contained within the Localism Bill which will replace the current Code of Conduct and make related changes to the Standards regime.

9. **The Bribery Act 2010** (Pages 59 - 62)

The report of the Legal Team Manager (Places, Regulatory and Compliance) outlines the implications of the Bribery Bill for Cheshire East Council.

10. **Standards Committee Membership**

Following the Local Government elections on 5 May 2011, Mr Ken Edwards one of three parish representatives appointed to the Standards Committee, was elected to serve as a Cheshire East Councillor and as a result, can no longer sit on the Committee in this capacity.

An approach has been made to the Cheshire Association for Local Councils (ChAIC) to secure a nomination for the resultant vacancy.

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

The reports relating to the remaining item on the agenda have 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 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 7c 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**

**12. Training on the Code of Conduct (Pages 63 - 86)**

To advise Members on the action taken by the Monitoring Officer following a request to organise training as part of 'other action' directed by the Assessment Sub Committee.