

# AGENDA

## Standards Committee

Date: **Friday 13 January 2012**

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Time: **2.00 pm**

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Place: **The Council Chamber, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road,  
Hereford**

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Notes: Please note the **time, date** and **venue** of the meeting.

For any further information please contact:

**Heather Donaldson, Democratic Services Officer**

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If you would like help to understand this document, or would like it in another format or language, please call Heather Donaldson, Democratic Services Officer on 01432 261829 or e-mail [hdonaldson@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:hdonaldson@herefordshire.gov.uk) in advance of the meeting.

# Agenda for the Meeting of the Standards Committee

## Membership:

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>David Stevens</b>	Independent Member
<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	<b>Jake Bharier</b>	Independent Member
	<b>Olwyn Barnett</b>	Local Authority Representative
	<b>Chris Chappell</b>	Local Authority Representative
	<b>Isabel Fox</b>	Independent Member
	<b>Richard Gething</b>	Parish and Town Council Representative
	<b>Mary Morris</b>	Parish and Town Council representative

## GUIDANCE ON DECLARING PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS AT MEETINGS

The Council's Members' Code of Conduct requires Councillors to declare against an Agenda item(s) the nature of an interest and whether the interest is personal or prejudicial. Councillors have to decide first whether or not they have a personal interest in the matter under discussion. They will then have to decide whether that personal interest is also prejudicial.

A personal interest is an interest that affects the Councillor more than most other people in the area. People in the area include those who live, work or have property in the area of the Council. Councillors will also have a personal interest if their partner, relative or a close friend, or an organisation that they or the member works for, is affected more than other people in the area. If they do have a personal interest, they must declare it but can stay and take part and vote in the meeting.

Whether an interest is prejudicial is a matter of judgement for each Councillor. What Councillors have to do is ask themselves whether a member of the public – if he or she knew all the facts – would think that the Councillor's interest was so important that their decision would be affected by it. If a Councillor has a prejudicial interest then they must declare what that interest is. A Councillor who has declared a prejudicial interest at a meeting may nevertheless be able to address that meeting, but only in circumstances where an ordinary member of the public would be also allowed to speak. In such circumstances, the Councillor concerned will have the same opportunity to address the meeting and on the same terms. However, a Councillor exercising their ability to speak in these circumstances must leave the meeting immediately after they have spoken.

## AGENDA

	Pages
<b>1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> To receive apologies for absence.	
<b>2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b> To receive any declarations of interest by members in respect of items on the agenda.	
<b>3. MINUTES</b> To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2011.	1 - 4
<b>4. APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATIONS RECEIVED FROM PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS</b> To consider applications for dispensations received from parish and town councils.  <b>Wards: County Wide</b>  <i>(Note: At the time that the agenda went to print, no applications had been received. If any arrive subsequently and in time for the meeting, they will be reported on and considered at the meeting)</i>	
<b>5. STANDARDS WORKING GROUP - THE FUTURE OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT STANDARDS FRAMEWORK</b> To consider the report of the Standards Working Group which proposes a new regime of member conduct, following the abolition of the statutory Code of Member Conduct and penalties through the Localism Act.  <b>Wards: County Wide</b>	5 - 12
<b>6. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS</b> In the opinion of the Proper Officer, the following item will not be, or is likely not to be, open to the public and press at the time it is considered.  <b>RECOMMENDATION:</b>	
that under section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12(A) of the Act, as indicated below and it is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	
<b>7A Information which is subject to an obligation of confidentiality;</b>	
<b>7. LOCAL FILTER CASES AND DETERMINATIONS</b> To update the Committee on progress made with complaints about local authority, parish and town councillors.	13 - 54

**Wards: County Wide**

**8. FUTURE MEETINGS**

To consider dates and times of future meetings.