

AGENDA

Standards Committee

Date: **Friday 10 July 2009**

Time: **3.30 pm**

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

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

For any further information please contact:

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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 in advance of the meeting.

Agenda for the Meeting of the Standards Committee

Membership

Chairman	Robert Rogers (Independent Member)
	Jake Bharier (Independent Member)
	Isabel Fox (Independent Member)
	Richard Gething (Parish and Town Council Representative)
	John Hardwick (Parish and Town Council Representative)
	David Stevens (Independent Member)
	John Stone (Local Authority Representative)
	Beris Williams (Local Authority 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
1.	<p>ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN</p> <p>To note that, at the extraordinary meeting of Council on 12th June, 2009, Robert Rogers was re-elected as Chairman of the Standards Committee for the ensuing municipal year.</p>	
2.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>To receive apologies for absence.</p>	
3.	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>To receive any declarations of interest by members in respect of items on the agenda.</p>	
4.	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 17 April 2009.</p>	5 - 10
5.	<p>APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATIONS RECEIVED FROM PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS</p> <p>To consider applications for dispensations received from parish and town councils.</p> <p>Wards: County Wide</p> <p><i>(Note: at the time that this agenda went to print, no applications had been received. If any applications for dispensations are received before the meeting, an oral report will be given.)</i></p>	
6.	<p>STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2008</p> <p>To approve the final content and photographs in respect of the 2008 Annual Report.</p> <p>Wards: County Wide</p>	
7.	<p>STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND BULLETIN 44</p> <p>To consider the latest bulletin from the Standards Board for England.</p> <p>Wards: County Wide</p> <p><i>(Note: The item referred to in the Bulletin entitled "Probity in Planning" will be assessed for any potential impact on the Council's constitution, and may be considered as an agenda item in the future if necessary.)</i></p>	11 - 18
8.	<p>INTRODUCTION OF STAGE 3 COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE FOR AGGRIEVED COMPLAINANTS</p> <p>To consider the adoption of the Council's Stage 3 complaints procedure as a means of assisting aggrieved complainants.</p> <p>Wards: County Wide</p>	19 - 22

9. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARDS 2010

23 - 30

To consider submitting an entry into the Standards category of the Local Government Awards 2010.

Wards: County Wide

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Standards Committee will be held on Friday 02 October 2009 at 2.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at Brockington.

Future meeting dates are as follows:

- 08 January 2010;
- 16 April 2010.

11. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

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.

RECOMMENDATION: 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

12. LOCAL FILTER CASES AND DETERMINATIONS

31 - 46

- To update the Committee about progress made with complaints about local authority, parish and town councillors during the period from 08 May 2008 to the present
- To share recent experiences of the local filter and determinations process.

Wards: County Wide

(This item contains information which is subject to an obligation of confidentiality)