

AGENDA

Standards Committee

Date: **Friday 2 October 2009**

Time: **2.00 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. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of interest by Members in respect of items on the agenda.

3. MINUTES

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2009.

4. APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATIONS RECEIVED FROM PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS

To consider applications for dispensations received from Parish and Town Councils.

Wards: County Wide

(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, and oral report will be given.)

5. THE NEW CONSTITUTION

To receive a presentation from the Interim Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic) on the proposals for a new constitution for Herefordshire Council.

Wards: County Wide**6. LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHRONICLE AWARDS 2010**

To agree the basis of the Committee's entry in the Standards and Ethics category of the LGC Awards 2010.

Wards: County Wide**7. MODERN.GOV**

To consider a briefing note (to be tabled at the meeting) in respect of using Modern.Gov software to manage the local filter process.

Wards: County Wide**8. STANDARDS FOR ENGLAND BULLETIN 45**

To consider the latest bulletin from Standards for England.

Wards: County Wide

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9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Standards Committee will be held on Friday 08 January 2010 at 2.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at Brockington.

Future meeting dates are as follows:

- 16 April 2010.

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

10. LOCAL FILTER CASES AND DETERMINATIONS

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

Wards: County Wide

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