

AGENDA

Standards Committee

Date: **Friday 2 July 2010**

Time: **2.30 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>STANDARDS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN</p> <p>To note that, at the Annual Council Meeting held on 28 May 2010, Mr Robert Rogers was elected Chairman of the Herefordshire 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 16 April 2010.</p>	5 - 10
5.	<p>CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS</p> <p>To consider a report on recent updates to the Council's Constitution; and</p> <p>To appoint a Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee for the ensuing municipal year.</p> <p>Wards: County Wide</p>	11 - 14
6.	<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>	15 - 18
7.	<p>BLOGGING AND SOCIAL NETWORKING</p> <p>To consider proposed guidance for members in respect of the use of blogging, social networking and other methods of communication.</p> <p>Wards: County Wide</p>	19 - 22
8.	<p>GUIDE TO STANDARDS PROCESSES</p> <p>To consider a report regarding the administrative processes in relation to the local complaints filter.</p> <p>Wards: County Wide</p>	23 - 38
9.	<p>THE FUTURE OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT STANDARDS FRAMEWORK</p> <p>To apprise the Committee of recent decisions made by Standards for England in the light of the proposed Decentralisation and Localism Bill.</p> <p>Wards: County Wide</p>	39 - 46

10. DECISION OF THE FIRST TIER TRIBUNAL

47 - 54

To note an appeal decision by the First-Tier Tribunal in respect of a Standards Committee hearing decision.

Wards: County Wide

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

11. LOCAL FILTER CASES AND DETERMINATIONS

55 - 80

To update the Committee about progress made with complaints about local authority, town or parish councillors.

Wards: County Wide

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

12. PROGRESS REPORT ON A STANDARDS FOR ENGLAND INVESTIGATION

To consider progress made on a Direction issued by Standards for England in respect of a parish or town council.

(Note: this item will be sent "to follow")

Wards: County Wide

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