

AGENDA

Standards Committee

Date: **Friday 24 June 2011**

Time: **1.00 pm**

Place: **Room 22a - Brockington**

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
	Olwyn Barnett	Local Authority Representative
	Jake Bharier	Independent Member
	Chris Chappell	Local Authority Representative
	Isabel Fox	Independent Member
	Richard Gething	Parish and Town Council Representative
	Mary Morris	Parish and Town Council Representative
	David Stevens	Independent Member

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 AND VICE-CHAIRMAN</p> <p>To note that, at the Annual Council Meeting held on 27 May 2011, Mr Robert Rogers was elected Chairman of the Herefordshire Standards Committee for the ensuing municipal year; and</p> <p>To appoint a Vice-Chairman 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 01 April 2011.</p>	1 - 2
5.	<p>HEREFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS</p> <p>To receive an oral update from Mr Richard Gething on the recent activities of the Herefordshire Association of Local Councils.</p>	
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>	3 - 6
7.	<p>THE FUTURE OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT STANDARDS FRAMEWORK</p> <p>To discuss any developments, and make recommendations to Council in relation to the outlook for standards and ethics in local government, and the future role of the Committee.</p>	7 - 18
8.	<p>TRAINING FOR STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEMBERS</p> <p>To discuss any training requirements that Committee Members might have, following the May 2011 local elections.</p>	
9.	<p>EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 and it is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.</p>	
	<p>7A Information which is subject to an obligation of confidentiality.</p>	

10. LOCAL FILTER CASES AND DETERMINATIONS

19 - 38

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