

**Committee:** Standards Committee  
**Date:** Wednesday 7 March 2012  
**Time:** 6.30 pm  
**Venue:** Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA

### **Membership**

**Dr Sadie Reynolds**  
**Councillor Fred Blackwell**  
**Councillor Chris Heath**  
**Councillor James Macnamara**  
**Councillor Douglas Williamson**  
**Kenneth Hawtin**  
**Councillor John Coley**

**Councillor Andrew Beere**  
**Councillor Timothy Hallchurch MBE**  
**Councillor Russell Hurle**  
**Councillor Rose Stratford**  
**Derek Bacon**  
**Councillor David Carr**

### **Substitutes**

**Councillor Ken Atack, Councillor Colin Clarke,**  
**Councillor Margaret Cullip, Councillor Mrs**  
**Diana Edwards, Councillor Tim Emptage,**  
**Councillor P A O'Sullivan, Councillor Leslie F**  
**Sibley and Councillor Lawrie Stratford**

## **AGENDA**

- 1. Appointment of Chairman**
- 2. Appointment of Vice-Chairman**
- 3. Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitute Members**
- 4. Declarations of Interest**

Members are asked to declare any interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.

**5. Petitions and Requests to Address the Meeting**

The Chairman to report on any requests to submit petitions or to address the meeting.

**6. Urgent Business**

The Chairman to advise whether they have agreed to any item of urgent business being admitted to the agenda.

**7. Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)**

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21 March 2011.

**8. Localism Act 2011 - The New Standards Regime (Pages 5 - 24)**

Report of Head of Law and Governance/Monitoring Officer

**Summary**

To enable the Committee to receive a summary of the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in so far as they affect the standards regime, consider a number of issues with a view to formulating appropriate future recommendations to the May Council meeting and to agree to receive a further report at a future meeting when both a model code of conduct and details of the proposed legislation on Disclosable Pecuniary Interests are known in order to formulate a set of final recommendations to Council.

**Recommendations**

The Standards Committee is recommended to:

- (1) Consider the summary of the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 ("the Act") that relate to the new standards regime set out below.
- (2) Consider the specific issues identified and determine a preliminary view of the Committee's likely future recommendations to Council.
- (3) Agree to receive a further report at a subsequent meeting to consider and formulate a set of full and final recommendations to Council once a model code of conduct and the legislation relating to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests are available.

**9. Exclusion of Public and Press**

The following items contain exempt information as defined in the following paragraphs of Part 1, Schedule 12A of Local Government Act 1972.

- 1 – Information relating to any individual

## 2 – Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual

Members are reminded that whilst the following items have been marked as exempt, it is for the meeting to decide whether or not to consider each of them in private or in public. In making the decision, members should balance the interests of individuals or the Council itself in having access to the information. In considering their discretion members should also be mindful of the advice of Council Officers.

Should Members decide not to make a decision in public, they are recommended to pass the following recommendation:

“That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, on the grounds that they could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 12A of that Act.”

### 10. **Minutes of meeting Thursday 10 November 2011 of Standards Assessment Sub-Committee** (Pages 25 - 28)

To note the Minutes of the Assessment Sub-Committee held on 10 November 2011.

### 11. **Minutes of meeting Thursday 15 September 2011 of Standards Assessment Sub-Committee** (Pages 29 - 30)

To note the Minutes of the Assessment Sub-Committee held on 15 September 2011.

### 12. **Minutes of meeting Wednesday 21 December 2011 of Standards Assessment Sub-Committee** (Pages 31 - 34)

To note the Minutes of the Assessment Sub-Committee held on 21 December 2011.

**Councillors are requested to collect any post from their pigeon hole in the Members Room at the end of the meeting.**

## **Information about this Meeting**

### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence should be notified to [democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk) or 01295 221589 prior to the start of the meeting.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Members are asked to declare interests at item 2 on the agenda or if arriving after the start of the meeting, at the start of the relevant agenda item. The definition of personal and prejudicial interests is set out in the constitution. The Democratic Support Officer will have a copy available for inspection at all meetings.

**Personal Interest:** Members must declare the interest but may stay in the room, debate and vote on the issue.

**Prejudicial Interest:** Member must withdraw from the meeting room and should inform the Chairman accordingly.

With the exception of the some very specific circumstances, a Member with a personal interest also has a prejudicial interest if it is one which a Member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest.

### **Local Government and Finance Act 1992 – Budget Setting, Contracts & Supplementary Estimates**

Members are reminded that any member who is two months in arrears with Council Tax must declare the fact and may speak but not vote on any decision which involves budget setting, extending or agreeing contracts or incurring expenditure not provided for in the agreed budget for a given year and could affect calculations on the level of Council Tax.

### **Evacuation Procedure**

When the continuous alarm sounds you must evacuate the building by the nearest available fire exit. Members and visitors should proceed to the car park as directed by Democratic Services staff and await further instructions.

### **Access to Meetings**

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named below, giving as much notice as possible before the meeting.

### **Mobile Phones**

Please ensure that any device is switched to silent operation or switched off.

### **Queries Regarding this Agenda**

Please contact Natasha Clark, Law and Governance  
natasha.clark@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk, 01295 221589

**Sue Smith**  
**Chief Executive**

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