

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

23rd April 2007

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THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE MEETING

Dear Councillor

13th April 2007

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the Standards Committee to be held on **Monday 23rd April 2007 at 7.00pm** in Committee Rooms C & D, Level -1, Council Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham.

Yours sincerely

John Watling
Policy & Democratic Services Team Leader

District Councillors: P. J. Goldstone, J. R. Ireland, G. Offord and C. Reid
Town/Parish Members: G. Yates and J. R. Scragg
Independent Members: J. Carine and R. Philpott

To all other Councillors for information.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Public Question Time/Receipt of Petitions

To receive public questions and / or petitions in accordance with Council Procedure Rules Numbers 11 and 12.

3. Minutes

To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 20th February 2007 (**copy attached**).

4. Chairman's Announcements (if any)

5. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of interest from Members in respect of any item contained on this Agenda.

6. Whistleblowing Policy

The purpose of report number 6, **copy attached**, is to inform the Committee of the Council's whistleblowing policy and to invite comments prior to its annual review in June 2007.

7. Complaints to the Local Government Ombudsman

The purpose of report number 7, **copy attached**, is to provide the Committee with an overview of how complaints made to the Local Government Ombudsman about North Wiltshire District Council are dealt with. The report also provides information on the type of complaints made against the Council and the determinations made by the Ombudsman's office.

8. Review of Register of Interests

It is proposed that this matter be considered at the next meeting of the Committee. District Council elections take place on 3 May and it will be helpful to review the Register following these elections to ensure that all Members have registered their interests in accordance with Section 81(1) of the Local Government Act 2000.

9. Review of Investigation Hearing Process

The purpose of report number 9, **copy attached**, is to consider whether, in the light of experience to date, any changes need to be made to the procedure adopted at Hearings to determine allegations of failure to comply with the Code of Conduct.

10. Benchmarking

The purpose of report number 10, **copy attached**, is to consider the work being undertaken by the Standards Committee and to compare this with the work being undertaken by the Standards Committees of other District Councils

11. Self-Assessment Survey in the Ethical Governance Toolkit

The purpose of report number 11, **copy attached**, is to ask Members to consider whether or not to carry out a self-assessment survey in accordance with the ethical governance toolkit.

12. Members' Code of Conduct

The purpose of report number 12, **copy attached**, is to inform Members that the revised Model Code of Conduct for members will come into force from 3 May 2007.

13. Members' Allowances Scheme 2007/08

The purpose of report number 13, **copy attached**, is to inform the Committee of the proposed allowances scheme for 2007/08 which will be considered by the Council on 24 April.

14. Standards Board for England Roadshow 2007

The purpose of report number 14, **copy attached**, is to consider attendance of a Standards Committee representative at the Standards Board for England Roadshow 2007.

15. Sixth Annual Assembly of Standards Committees – 15-16 October 2007, Birmingham

The purpose of report number 15, **copy attached**, is to consider attendance of a Standards Committee representative at the Annual Assembly of Standards Committees.