

## STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2007 at 10.00 a.m.  
in the Town Hall

### AGENDA

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE COUNCIL YEAR 2007/08**

The Chair of the Committee must be an independent member.

2. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR FOR THE COUNCIL YEAR 2007/08**

The Vice-Chair of the Committee must be an independent member.

3. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Council's Constitution does not permit substitutes.

4. **MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE**

Note (circulated, page 1) of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

5. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Guidance note (circulated page 2)

6. **POWERS AND DUTIES**

The Committee's powers and duties are set out at page 3.

7. **MINUTES**

Minutes of the Committee's meeting held on 9th March 2007 (circulated page 4)

**8. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT**

Report (circulated, page 9) of the Monitoring Officer.

**9. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WORK OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Report (circulated, page 63) of the Monitoring Officer.

**10. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT BY COUNCILLORS - LOCAL HEARINGS**

The Monitoring Officer reports that at its meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2006 the Committee asked him to write to the Standards Board expressing the Council's concern on grounds of time, cost, consistency of approach and increase in workload of the proposed introduction of the "local filter" for dealing with alleged breaches of the Code.

A response has been received from the Standards Board and it is circulated at page 69.

**11. COUNCIL CONSTITUTION**

Council has now adopted a revised Constitution and it came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> June. It replaces in its entirety the Constitution adopted by Council in 2001. Attached at pages 71 – 87 are copies, as follows, of the various Codes of Practice and guidance which the Committee is responsible for overseeing and advising on:-

- Code on Councillor – Officer Relations
- Planning Code of Practice
- Whistle-blowing Policy
- Code on Use of IT Equipment

**12. STANDARDS COMMITTEES INDEPENDENT MEMBERS' FORUM**

Notes (circulated, page 88 of the Forum meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2007.

The next meeting will be held at Wokingham on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2007.

**13. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Council has set the following dates for meetings of the Committee, all commencing at 10.30 a.m. in the Town Hall provided there is business to warrant holding a meeting:-

- Friday 7th September 2007
- Friday 7th December 2007
- Friday 7th March 2008

When Council decided upon the programme of Council and Committee meetings for 2007/08 it asked that the first meeting of all Committees in the 2007/08 Council Year should decide upon their start times for the remainder of the Council Year. This Committee is scheduled to meet on three more occasions in 2007/08 as set out above. At its last meeting the Committee decided that, subject to confirmation at this meeting, the Committee's meetings in 2007/08 should start at 10.00 am. If the Committee wishes to change arrangements in any other way it should bear in mind that Town Hall accommodation is in considerable demand for meetings and other purposes and it may not be possible to accommodate significant changes in meeting arrangements (e.g. from the morning to the afternoon).

If you have any enquiries about this agenda please contact:-

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