

Agenda

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Standards Committee

Date: **Friday 5 March 2010**

Time: **3.00 pm**

Place: **Oxford Town Hall**

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 Alec Dubberley, Democratic Services Officer on 01865 252402 or e-mail adubberley@oxford.gov.uk in advance of the meeting.

Standards Committee

Membership

Chair	John Lay	Independent Member
Vice-Chair	Anne Gwinnett	Independent Member
	Councillor Clark Brundin	Local Authority Representative
	Councillor Stuart Craft	Local Authority Representative
	Councillor Sushila Dhall	Local Authority Representative
	Councillor Gill Sanders	Local Authority Representative
	Councillor Val Smith	Local Authority Representative
	Chris Ballinger	Independent Member
	Meryll Dean	Independent Member
	Martin Gardner	Independent Member
	Fred Mogridge	Parish Council Representative
	Nils Bartleet	Parish Council 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>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE The Council's constitution does not permit substitutes.</p>	
2.	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Councillors serving on the Committee are asked to declare any personal or personal prejudicial interests they may have in any of the following agenda items.</p>	
3.	<p>MINUTES To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 4 December 2009 and 21 January 2010.</p>	1-7
4.	<p>PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS The Democratic Services Manager will report orally.</p> <p>Nils Bartleet was appointed to the Standards Committee at the meeting of Council held on 25 January 2010.</p>	
5.	<p>STANDARDS COMMITTEE JOINT TRAINING The Head of Law and Governance will report orally.</p> <p>The Committee may wish to reflect on the Joint Training Session held on 4 March 2010.</p>	
6.	<p>DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT The draft report to Council is attached for the Committee to comment on.</p>	9-37
7.	<p>COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP The Democratic Services Manager will report orally.</p>	
8.	<p>ASSESSMENT PANEL ANALYSIS To update the Committee on local filter cases determined since the last meeting.</p>	39-58
9.	<p>STANDARDS FOR ENGLAND PUBLICATIONS The Committee is asked to note the following attached documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standards For England Bulletin 46 • Article on Bias, Predetermination and the Code • Research Paper: Assessing the Impact of Standards Committees 	59-108
10.	<p>WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2010/11 The Head of Law and Governance will update orally.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to consider whether any additional items should be put on to the work plan for the next Council year in order for a draft work plan to be presented to the June meeting.</p>	

11. COUNCIL BUDGET 2010/11

The Head of Law and Governance will report orally.

12. DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2010/11 COUNCIL YEAR

Friday 11 June

Friday 10 September

Friday 10 December

Friday 11 March

Times are to be confirmed.