

Swindon Borough Council

Standards Committee

Monday, 24 March 2014

Committee Room 1, Civic Offices

At 5.00 p.m.

Councillors

Roderick Bluh
Michael Bray
Brian Ford
Toby Elliott (Deputy)
(Conservative)

Fay Howard
Teresa Page
(Labour)

Dave Wood (Chair)
(Liberal Democrat)

Independent Persons for Information:

Paul Morris
Peter Morgans

Committee Officer: Steve Jones (Telephone 01793 463602)
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Swindon Borough Council can be contacted at the Civic Offices, Euclid Street, Swindon, SN1 2JH (Telephone 01793 445500)

Co-opted Representatives

Mr Trevor Davies
Mr David Dawson (Lay Member)
Mr Mike Compton (Parish Rep)
Mr Richard Hailstone (Parish Rep)

AGENDA

PART 1 (PUBLIC ITEMS)

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

Members are requested at the start of the meeting to declare any known interests in any matter to be considered, and are reminded that any such interest should also be declared at the start of an item or during any discussion of the matter concerned.

3. Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 27th January 2014.

4. Public Question Time

(See explanatory note below. Please phone the Committee Clerk whose name and number appears at the top of this agenda if you need further guidance.)

5. Exempt Items - Exclusion of Press and Public

Certain items are expected to include the consideration of exempt information and the Standards Committee is, therefore, recommended to resolve "That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during the discussion of the matters referred to in the items listed below, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in the respective paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information".

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Paragraph No.</u>
7	1 and 2

6. Independent Review of the Council's Standards Arrangements DLDS
(Pages 5 - 18)

PART 2 (TO BE CONSIDERED WITHOUT THE PRESS AND PUBLIC PRESENT)

7. Ethical Compliance Report DLDS (Pages 19 - 22)

14 March 2014 (being date of agenda despatch)

Key:

DLDS - Director of Law and Democratic Services

Public Question Time - Swindon Borough Council is committed to increasing its accountability to the public and to promoting active citizenship. Up to 15 minutes will be allowed at the start of all Council meetings for questions to the Chair from members of the public about the work of the Committee (except for confidential matters and specific planning applications). Questions must be relevant, clear and concise. Because of time constraints Public Question Time is not an opportunity to make speeches or statements. Prior notice of a question to the Director of Law and Democratic Services is desirable - particularly if detailed background information is needed.

Access Arrangements - The venue is wheelchair accessible and an infrared receiver hearing system is provided. If you would wish to attend the meeting but have any special requirement to enable you to do so please contact the Committee Officer, whose name appears at the top of this agenda, as soon as possible prior to the date of the meeting.

If you would like to receive any of the pages contained in this agenda in a larger print size please contact the Committee Officer whose name appears on the first page of this agenda.

Standards Committee - Terms of Reference

The Standards Committee has the following roles and functions in accordance with Article 9 of the Council's Constitution:

- (a) promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by councillors and co-opted members including church and parent governor representatives;
- (b) assisting the councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives to observe the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (c) advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (d) monitoring the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (e) recommend training on any aspects of conduct and behaviour for Councillors and officers where it considers it would be of benefit;
- (f) approving other codes of conduct and behaviour which apply to Councillors, employees, contractors and any other parties or organisations associated with Council activity (for employees approval will be subject to agreement through recognised negotiating machinery where appropriate).
- (g) receiving from the Council's Monitoring Officer details of all allegations of any breach of the Code of Conduct;
- (h) determining any matters which may be referred to it by the Monitoring Officer or the Standards Board for England, or which may arise under the 'local filtering' arrangements for complaints as to breaches of the Members Code of Conduct;
- (i) supporting the Council's Monitoring Officer in discharging his/her role;
- (j) granting dispensations to councillors and co-opted members, including church and parent governor representatives, from requests relating to interests set out in the Members Code of Conduct;
- (k) to also exercise (a) to (j) above in relation to the parish councils wholly or mainly in its area and the members of those parish councils;
- (l) to grant and supervise exemptions in relation to those politically restricted posts for which it is responsible
- (m) ensure the Council's Customer Feedback Policy operates effectively in relation to standards of conduct and behaviour of staff and in particular

- receive annual reports on its operation
- receive regular monitoring reports on complaints in relation to standards of conduct and behaviour that have resulted in a final warning to a member of staff
- adjudicate upon all complaints which remain unresolved
- require Service Managers to report upon any areas of activity which may have been the subject of criticism in respect of standards of conduct and behaviour
- approve and publish an annual report upon the operation of the system;

(n) report to the Council when it considers:-

- standards of conduct and behaviour in a particular area need reviewing, and
- the level of commitment necessary to resolve these difficulties should be greater;

(o) approve the Council's anti-fraud strategy and whistle-blowing procedures and ensure they operate effectively;

(p) recommend to the Council the payment of compensation or the taking of any other action relating to standards of conduct and behaviour where this is considered appropriate;

(q) report to the Council on the result of any investigation into the standards of conduct and behaviour of a Member; and

(r) approve procedures associated with the appointment of an independent remuneration panel for Councillors' Allowances.