

## Swindon Borough Council

# Standards Committee

**Tuesday, 3 February 2015**

Committee Room 6, Civic Offices

**At 5.00 p.m.**

### **Councillors**

Mick Bray  
Kevin Parry  
Eric Shaw  
Vera Tomlinson  
Maureen Penny (Deputy)  
(Conservative)  
  
Fay Howard  
Carol Shelley  
Kevin Small  
Joe Tray  
(Labour)  
  
David Wood  
(Liberal Democrat)

### **Independent Persons:**

Paul Morris  
Keith Strickland

### **Co-opted Representatives**

Mr Trevor Davies  
Mr David Dawson  
(Lay Members)  
  
Mike Compton  
Richard Hailstone  
(Parish Representatives)

**Committee Officer:** Steve Jones (Telephone 01793 463602)  
email: [stevejones@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:stevejones@swindon.gov.uk)

Swindon Borough Council can be contacted at the Civic Offices, Euclid Street, Swindon, SN1 2JH (Telephone 01793 445500)

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## **AGENDA**

### **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 5 - 6)**

**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>
<b>9</b>	<b>1 and 2</b>

**6. Question and Answer Session - Leader of the Council, and Chief Executive**  
DLDS (Pages 7 - 24)

**7. Ethical Framework Update** DLDS (Pages 25 - 30)

**8. Review of Codes and Protocols** DLDS (Pages 31 - 36)

**9. Ethical Compliance Report** DLDS (Pages 37 - 40)

26 January 2015

**Key:**

DLDS - Director of Law and Democratic Services

**Public Question Time** - Swindon Borough Council remains committed to increasing its accountability to the public and to promoting active citizenship. 15 minutes will be allowed at the start of all Council meetings for questions to the Chair from the public about the work of the Committee (except for confidential matters, and matters relating to planning and licensing applications). We will give priority to those who submit questions in writing at least two days before the meeting. Questions must be relevant, clear, and concise. You may not use Public Question Time as an opportunity to make speeches or statements.

Questions in writing should be sent to the Committee Officer whose contact details appear on the agenda above or to the Director of Law and Democratic Services, we will publish it, along with the answer, alongside the Minutes. The process associated with asking a public question is set out in the "Public Question Time at Council Meetings Protocol and Guidance" available on the Council's Website.

(<http://ww5.swindon.gov.uk/moderngov/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13338&path=0>) or from the Committee Officer named above.

**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) recommending training on any aspect 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 which may arise under consideration of complaints as to breaches of the Members Code of Conduct or the Protocol for Member / Officer Relations or any Code or Protocol applying to Members and Co-opted Members;
- (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, arising from requests relating to interests set out in the Members Code of Conduct and/or under section 33 of the Localism Act 2011;
- (k) exercising (a) to (i) above in relation to the parish councils wholly or mainly in its area and the members of those parish councils;

- (l) ensuring the Council's Customer Feedback Policy operates effectively in relation to standards of conduct and behaviour of staff and in particular the Standards Committee may
  - receive an annual report on its operation
  - receive 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;
- (m) reporting 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;
- (n) approving the Council's anti-fraud strategy and whistle-blowing procedures and ensure they operate effectively;
- (o) recommending 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;
- (p) reporting to the Council, should it deem it necessary, on the result of any investigation into the standards of conduct and behaviour of a Member; and
- (q) approving procedures associated with the appointment of an independent remuneration panel for Councillors' Allowances.