

Agenda for a meeting of the Standards Committee to be held on Thursday 5 March 2009 at 1400 in Committee Room 4, City Hall, Bradford

Members of the Committee –

Independent Members

Mrs P Essler (Chair), Mr G Dobson, The Very Revd Dr D J Ison, Mr M Shakeel

Parish and Town Council Members

Parish Councillors Bowen, Jay and Mitchell

Councillors

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Binney	Ferriby	Q Khan
Owens	Flowers	
D Smith	Ikram	

Notes:

- *This agenda can be made available in Braille, large print or tape format on request by contacting the Agenda contact shown below.*
- *If any further information is required about any item on this agenda, please contact the officer named at the foot of each agenda item.*



No smoking is allowed in City Hall.

From:

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City Solicitor
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To:



2006-2007
Improving Rural Services
Empowering Communities



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Suzan Hemingway, Assistant Director Corporate Services (City Solicitor)



A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1. **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

(Members Code of Conduct - Part 4A of Constitution)

To receive disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests from members and co-opted members on matters to be considered at the meeting. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest.

An interest must also be disclosed in the meeting when it only becomes apparent to the member during the meeting.

Notes:

Members may remain in the meeting and take part fully in discussion and voting unless the interest is prejudicial.

A personal interest is a prejudicial interest if it is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the member's judgement of the public interest.

Members must withdraw from the meeting if the interest is a prejudicial interest unless a dispensation has been obtained from the Standards Committee.

Members may not vote on a matter affecting the finances of the Council if they are in arrears with their Council Tax by more than two months.

Officers must disclose interests in accordance with Council Standing Orders paragraph 44.

2. **MINUTES**

Recommended –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2009 be signed as a correct record (previously circulated):

3. **INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS**

(Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 3B of the Constitution)

Reports and background papers for agenda items may be inspected by contacting the person shown after each agenda item. Certain reports and background papers may be restricted.

Any request to remove the restriction on a report or background paper should be made to the relevant Director or Head of Service whose name is shown on the front page of the report.

If that request is refused, there is a right of appeal to this meeting.

Please contact the officer shown below in advance of the meeting if you wish to appeal.

(Tracey Sugden - 01274 434287)

B. BUSINESS ITEMS

4. MONITORING OFFICER'S REPORT ON COMPLAINTS

The Monitoring Officer will report to the meeting the receipt of any complaint notified to her, the stage that any notified complaint has reached and the final outcome on the consideration of complaints, where appropriate.

(Suzan Hemingway - 01274 432496)

5. STANDARDS COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

An updated copy of the Committee's work programme is appended to this agenda for Members' information.

(Suzan Hemingway – 01274 433696)

6. SEVENTH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF STANDARDS COMMITTEES

Previous Reference: Minute 32 (2008/09)

Document "H", which provides information on the 7th Annual Assembly of Standards Committees held on 13 and 14 October 2008 attended by the Assistant Director Corporate Services (City Solicitor) was considered by the Committee on 4 December 2008 and it was resolved :

That Document "H" be noted and discussed further at the forthcoming member development event.

Members will recall that there was not sufficient time at the subsequent member development event held in January 2009 to consider Document "H" and, therefore, the Assistant Director will re-present it at this meeting.

The views of the Committee are requested.

(Suzan Hemingway – 01274 433696)

NB: As Document "H" has already been widely circulated, it is not being re-circulated with this agenda. It can be viewed on the Council Minutes and Agenda database at www.bradford.gov.uk or by contacting Jill Bell/Tracey Sugden on 01274 434580 or 434287.

7. STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2008/09

The Assistant Director Corporate Services (City Solicitor) will present the draft Annual Report attached at Appendix 1 to **Document "K"** and would like the Committee to comment on its contents.

Recommended –

The Standards Committee is asked to consider the attached draft Annual Report and make any suggestions for amendment or additions as appropriate.

(Suzan Hemingway – 01274 433696)

8. IMPROVING THE ETHICAL GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

Previous Reference: Minute 39 (2008/09)

On 5 February 2009, the Standards Committee considered two reports on the Ethical Governance arrangements and the Audit Commission's Comprehensive Performance Assessment in the context of looking at how City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council's Standards Committee could improve the Ethical Governance Framework to ensure that high standards of conduct were maintained.

At that meeting, members discussed in detail issues arising out of the reports and identified areas for further consideration in terms of ensuring that the Ethical Governance Framework was robust and that procedures were in place to ensure continuous improvement.

The Monitoring Officer was asked to consider the issues raised and present a further report setting out the issues and concerns and proposed actions to address those concerns.

Accordingly, **Document "L"** is now presented for Members' consideration.

Recommended-

- (1) That the Standards Committee consider the appendix attached to Document "L" and the actions identified therein and agree those to be undertaken by the Committee.**
- (2) The Standards Committee is asked to prioritise the agreed actions for inclusion in the work programme 2009/10.**

(Suzan Hemingway – 01274 433696)

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THIS AGENDA AND ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN PRODUCED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ON RECYCLED PAPER