

STANDARDS COMMITTEE AGENDA

**Tuesday 12 July 2011 at 4.30 pm at the
Council Chamber, West Somerset House, Williton**

1. **Apologies for Absence**

2. **Appointment of Chairman**

To elect a Chairman of the Committee for the 2011/12 municipal year.

3. **Appointment of Vice Chairman**

To elect a Vice Chairman of the Committee for the 2011/12 municipal year.

4. **Declarations of Interest**

To receive and record any declarations of interest in respect of any matters included on the agenda for consideration at this meeting.

5. **Public Participation**

The Chairman to advise the Committee of any items on which members of the public have requested to speak and advise those members of the public present of the details of the Council's public participation scheme.

For those members of the public wishing to speak at this meeting there are a few points you might like to note.

A three-minute time limit applies to each speaker and you will be asked to speak before Councillors debate the issue. There will be no further opportunity for comment at a later stage. Your comments should be addressed to the Chairman and any ruling made by the Chair is not open to discussion. If a response is needed it will be given either orally at the meeting or a written reply made within five working days of the meeting.

6. **Minutes**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2011 – **SEE ATTACHED.**

7. **Membership of Standards Committee**

The Monitoring Officer to confirm the membership of the Standards Committee.

8. **Hearing Panel held on 14 April 2011**

The Monitoring Officer to update the Committee on action taken following the holding of a Hearing Panel on 14 April 2011.

9. **Induction Training for West Somerset Councillors**

The Monitoring Officer to report on Code of Conduct training for West Somerset Councillors held on 18 May and 26 May 2011.

10. **West Somerset Annual Governance Statement 2010/2011**

To consider the report relating to the West Somerset Annual Governance Statement for 2010/2011 that was approved by the Audit Committee at its meeting held on 21 June 2011 – **COPY ATTACHED.**

The Committee considered the 2009/2010 Annual Governance Statement at its meeting in August 2010 when it was agreed that there would be benefit in the Standards Committee reviewing this document on an annual basis.

11. Future of the Local Standards Framework

To consider Report No. WSC 90/11, prepared by Bruce Lang, Monitoring Officer – **ATTACHED.**

The purpose of the Report is to receive an update on the latest position in regard to the Localism Bill and agree the next steps in the light of the decisions taken by the West Somerset Council at its meeting held on 20 April 2011.

12. Monitoring Officers Update

To consider a progress report from the Monitoring Officer on activities undertaken since the last meeting – **SEE ATTACHED.**

13. Standards Committee Workplan 2011/2012

To consider setting the Standards Committee Workplan for 2011/2012 – **COPY ATTACHED.**

14. Dates of Future Meetings

The Monitoring Officer to advise that the dates of the future meetings of the Committee are scheduled to commence at 4.30pm on the following dates:

11 October 2011
13 December 2011
13 March 2011

15. Exclusion of the Press and Public

To consider excluding the press and public during consideration of Item 16 on the grounds that, if the press and public were present during this item, there would be likely to be a disclosure to them of exempt information of the class specified in Paragraph 7C of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended as follows:

The deliberations of a Standards Committee or a Sub-Committee established under the provisions of Part 3 of the Local Government Act 2000 in reaching any finding on a matter referred under the provisions of Section 60(2) or (3), 64(2), 70(4) or (5) or 71(2) of the Act should be considered under the exclusion of the press and public.

16. Local Investigation – Reference WSLA20

To consider Report No. WSC 93 /11, prepared by Wendy Bass, Deputy Monitoring Officer – **SEE ATTACHED.**

The purpose of the report is to consider the outcome of a local investigation following the decision of the Referral Panel held on 10 February 2011.