

STANDARDS COMMITTEE AGENDA

**Tuesday 8 February 2011 at 5.30 pm at the
Council Chamber, West Somerset House, Williton**

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Minutes

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2010 – **SEE ATTACHED.**

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. Meeting between Standards Committee and Council

To consider the note prepared by Bruce Lang, Monitoring Officer regarding the meeting between the Standards Committee and West Somerset Council on 13 December 2010.

6. The Future of Standards for England and the Standards Framework

To consider Report No. WSC 10/11 prepared by the Chairman of the Committee and the Monitoring Officer – **SEE ATTACHED.**

The purpose of the report is to update the Committee on the pertinent elements of the Localism Bill that was laid before Parliament on 13 December 2010 relating to the abolition of the current Standards Regime and provide an opportunity to formulate any recommendations to the West Somerset Council on the most appropriate way forward.

7. Monitoring Officers Update

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

8. Standards Committee Work Programme for 2010/2011

To update the Work Programme for the Committee – **SEE ATTACHED.**

9. Date of Next Meeting

The Monitoring Officer to advise that the next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to be held on Tuesday 12 April 2011 at 5.30pm in the Council Chamber, West Somerset House, Williton.

10. Exclusion of the Press and Public

To consider excluding the press and public during consideration of Items 11, 12, 13 and 14 on the grounds that, if the press and public were present during those items, 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.

11. Local Investigation – Reference WSLA 14

To consider Report No. WSLA23/11, prepared by Bruce Lang, 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 26 August 2010.

12. Local Investigation – Reference WSLA 15

To consider Report No. WSLA24/11, prepared by Bruce Lang, 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 26 August 2010.

13. Local Investigation – Reference WSLA 16

To consider Report No. WSLA25/11, prepared by Bruce Lang, 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 26 August 2010.

14. Local Investigation – Reference WSLA 17

To consider Report No. WSLA26/11, prepared by Bruce Lang, 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 26 August 2010.

NOTE: Provisional Meetings

In view of the potential for confusion in regard to provisional meetings of the Committee, Committee Members please note that, unless a specific notice is sent out inviting Committee Members to a meeting, then there will not be a meeting held on any of the provisional dates.