

Open

Ethics and Standards Committee

Agenda

6:00pm
Wednesday, 27th January 2010
The Earl Baldwin Suite
Duke House, Clensmore Street, Kidderminster



Ethics and Standards Committee

Members of Committee:

Independent Members:

Rev J A Cox (Chairman)
Mrs C A Noons (Vice-Chairman)
Mr J T Hipkiss
Mr R Reynolds

Town and Parish Members:

Councillor R Hobson
Councillor A Mace
Councillor J Swift

Councillor R L Akathiotis
Councillor P Dyke
Councillor M J Hart
Councillor C D Nicholls
Councillor J Thomas

Councillor H E Dyke
Councillor D R Godwin
Councillor S M Hayward
Councillor K J Stokes

Information for Members of the Public:

Part I of the Agenda includes items for discussion in public. You have the right to request to inspect copies of Minutes and reports on this Agenda as well as the background documents used in the preparation of these reports.

Part II of the Agenda (if applicable) deals with items of "Exempt Information" for which it is anticipated that the public may be excluded from the meeting and neither reports nor background papers are open to public inspection.

There are particular circumstances when the Ethics and Standards Committee may exclude the public, which are in addition to those available at meetings of the Council, its Cabinet and Committees etc. These apply when the Ethics and Standards Committee considers the following:

Information relating to a particular chief officer, former chief officer or applicant to become a chief officer of a local probation board within the meaning of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000.

Information which is subject to any obligation of confidentiality.

Information which relates in any way to matters concerning national security.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - GUIDANCE NOTE

Code of Conduct

Members are reminded that under the Code of Conduct it is the responsibility of individual Members to declare any personal or personal and prejudicial interest in any item on this agenda. A Member who declares a personal interest may take part in the meeting and vote, unless the interest is also prejudicial. If the interest is prejudicial, as defined in the Code, the Member must leave the room. However, Members with a prejudicial interest can still participate if a prescribed exception applies or a dispensation has been granted.

Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992

If any Member is two months or more in arrears with a Council Tax payment, they may not vote on any matter which might affect the calculation of the Council Tax, any limitation of it, its administration or related penalties or enforcement.

For further information:-

If you have any queries about this Agenda or require any details of background papers, further documents or information you should contact Diana Glendenning, Principal Committee Officer, Civic Centre, Stourport-on-Severn. Telephone: 01562 732763 or email diana.glendenning@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

Wyre Forest District Council

Ethics and Standards Committee

Wednesday, 27th January 2010

The Earl Baldwin Suite, Duke House, Clensmore Street, Kidderminster

Part 1

Open to the press and public

| Agenda item | Subject | Page Number |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Apologies for Absence | |
| 2. | Appointment of Substitute Members To receive the name of any Councillor who is to act as a substitute, notice of which has been given to the Director of Legal & Corporate Services, together with the name of the Councillor for whom he/she is acting. | |
| 3. | Declarations of Interest In accordance with the Code of Conduct, to invite Members to declare the existence and nature of any personal or personal and prejudicial interests in the following agenda items. Members should indicate the action they will be taking when the item is considered. Members are also invited to make any declaration in relation to Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. (See guidance note on cover.) | |
| 4. | Minutes To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on the 15th December 2009. Minutes 15th December 2009 | 5 |
| 5. | Review of Protocol on the Disclosure of Confidential Information To receive a report from the Monitoring Officer that asks the Committee to review the Council's Protocol on the Disclosure of Confidential Information and if necessary, to make any amendments. Agenda Item 5 Protocol on the Disclosure of Confidential Information | 9 |

| | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 6. | <p>Protocol on the use of Mobile Phones in Council Meetings</p> <p>To receive a report from the Monitoring Officer that recommends to Council that a Protocol on the use of mobile phones in meetings be agreed and that a paragraph be included in all Council agendas Agenda Item 6 Protocol on the use of Mobile Phones in Council Meetings stating that the use of mobile phones during meetings of the Council is prohibited.</p> | 14 |
| 7. | <p>Draft Standards in Partnership Protocol</p> <p>To receive a report from the Monitoring Officer that advises Members of a Draft protocol that has been drafted by Standards for England that encourages high standards of behaviour in partnership working arrangements. Agenda Item 7 Standards in Partnership Protocol Appendix 1 Agenda Item No 7</p> | 17 |
| 8. | <p>Review of Members' Interests</p> <p>To receive a report from the Monitoring Officer that asks the Committee to review the arrangements for the recording and reporting of Members' Interests. Agenda Item 8 Review of Members Interests</p> | 25 |
| 9. | <p>Complaints to the Local Government Ombudsman 2009/09</p> <p>To consider a report from the Director of Community and partnerships Services that reports on the outcome of complaints to the Local Government Ombudsman in accordance with Council Policy for the period April 2009 to March 2009. Agenda Item 9 Complaints to the Local Government Ombudsman 2008-2009</p> | 27 |
| 10. | <p>To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Director of Legal and Corporate Services before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.</p> | |
| 11. | <p>Exclusion of the Press and Public</p> <p>To consider passing the following resolution:</p> <p>“That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of “exempt information” as defined in the paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act”.</p> | |

Part 2

Not open to the Press and Public

| | | |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| 12. | To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Director of Legal and Corporate Services before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting. | |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|