

Central Bedfordshire  
Council  
Priory House  
Monks Walk  
Chicksands,  
Shefford SG17 5TQ



**please ask for** Martha Clampitt  
**direct line** 0300 300 4032  
**date** 22 December 2011

## NOTICE OF MEETING

### STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Date & Time

**Friday, 6 January 2012 9.30 a.m.**

Venue at

**Room 15, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford**

Richard Carr  
**Chief Executive**

To: The Chairman and Members of the STANDARDS COMMITTEE :-

Councillors: L Birt, R W Johnstone, Mrs J G Lawrence, N Warren  
and P Williams,  
Independent Mr K Ford(Chairman), Mr J Dann, Mr K Frazer,  
Persons: Mr M Jones and Miss D C Maggs  
Town and Parish Mr B Collier, Dr W J Eilbeck, Mr J Lewis and  
Representatives: Mr B Saunders

Other Members of the Council – as requested.

All other Members of the Council - on request

**MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THIS  
MEETING**

## AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence and notification of substitute members.

2. **Minutes**

To approve as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 28 October 2011.

(previously circulated)

3. **Members' Interests**

To receive from Members declarations and the **nature** thereof in relation to:-

- (a) Personal Interests in any Agenda item
- (b) Personal and Prejudicial Interests in any Agenda item

4. **Public Participation**

To deal with general questions and statements from members of the public in accordance with the scheme of public participation set out in Annex 1 to Part A4 of the Constitution.

## REPORTS

<b>Item</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Page Nos.</b>
5	<b>Update on Current Standards Matters</b>  To advise Members on the latest position relating Assessment, Reviews and Hearings.	* 7 - 10
6	<b>Update on Standards in the Future</b>  To consider an update from the LGiU regarding the future of Standards Arrangements and to discuss options.	



STD/11/11 **Public Participation**

There were no applications from members of the public to speak under the Public Participation Procedure allowed for under Part A4 of the Constitution.

STD/11/12 **Update on Current Standards Matters**

The Committee considered the report of the Monitoring Officer which advised Members of the latest position relating to Assessments, Reviews and Hearings.

The Committee and Officers were thanked for their time and consideration of the cases to date. The Monitoring Officer provided additional information about several cases which had not been available at the time the agenda was printed.

The Monitoring Officer informed the Committee about a recent hearing which had resulted in a technical breach by the Subject Member but no sanction applied as legal advice had been sought. The Monitoring Officer advised that he would be issuing guidance to all Members of the Council advising that should the Town or Parish Council, to which they were a member, submit a Planning Application then the Member would need to declare a personal interest and withdraw during the debate. The Member would be allowed to speak at the public participation part of the meeting.

**RESOLVED**

**that the Update on Current Standards Matters report be noted.**

STD/11/13 **Members Code of Conduct Audit**

The Committee received and considered a report which provided the results of the Members' Code of Conduct Internal Audit 2011/12.

The Monitoring Officer informed the Committee that the internal audit report had not raised any concerns over the processes in place for dealing with Members' Code of Conduct issues.

It was noted that the report would be considered by the Audit Committee at a future meeting.

**RESOLVED**

**that the Members' Code of Conduct Internal Audit Report be noted.**

STD/11/14 **Future Arrangements for Standards Committee**

The Monitoring Officer informed the Committee that there was to be a third reading of the Localism Bill on Monday 31 October 2011. The Committee felt that it would be premature to discuss possible ways forward until the third reading had occurred.

The Vice-Chairman (Elected Member) had spoken to the Leader of the Council and it was possible that some committee could be amalgamated. The Monitoring Officer provided an alternative which would be considered at the next Constitution Advisory Group (CAG) in December through the amalgamation of Audit, General Purposes, CAG and Standards. These Committees would form a governance committee.

The Committee agreed to defer in depth discussion until the 6 January meeting however it was felt that for public confidence and to help prevent mistakes by Councils that independent people had to be involved in the process.

(Note: The meeting commenced at 9.30 a.m. and concluded at 10.05 a.m..)

Chairman .....

Dated .....

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**Meeting:** Standards Committee  
**Date:** 06 January 2012  
**Subject:** Update on Current Standard Matters  
**Report of:** Monitoring Officer  
**Summary:** To advise Members on the latest position relating Assessment, Reviews and Hearings

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Contact Officer: John Atkinson, Monitoring/Head of Democratic & Legal Services  
Public/Exempt: Public  
Wards Affected: All  
Function of: Non-executive  
Reason for urgency (if appropriate): N/A

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the Committee receive and note the report.**

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1. The table set out at Appendix "A" shows the current position relating to code of conduct cases, together with information about new complaints received by the Standards Committee.
2. Members are requested to receive and note this report.

**CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

**Council Priorities:**

Contributes to all Council priorities to ensure good governance

**Financial:**

N/A

**Legal:**

To ensure high ethical conduct within the Council in accordance with the requirements of the Ethical Framework as set out in the Local Government Act 2000

**Risk Management:**

N/A

**Staffing (including Trades Unions):**

N/A

**Equalities/Human Rights:**

None

**Community Development/Safety:**

N/A

**Sustainability:**

N/A

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Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands



CBC Ref	Unitary / Town or Parish Council	Complainant	Date Complaint rec'd	Breach of Code of Conduct Alleged	Legal Officer dealing with initial assessment	Elected Member dealing with initial assessment	Town & Parish Member dealing with initial assessment	Independent Member chairing initial assessment	Date of initial Assessment	Outcome of initial Assessment
CBC35	Parish Council Member	L Trevena	04/10/11	5, 6a, 3(i), 3(2)(a)	John Atkinson	Cllr P Williams	Mr J Lewis	Mr M Jones	28/10/11	to be investigated
CBC36	Parish Council member	K Goode	08/10/11	5 and 6(b)(i)	John Atkinson	Cllr P Williams	Mr J Lewis	Mr M Jones	28/10/11	to be investigated
CBC37	Parish Council member	K Goode	14/10/11	10(1), 10(1)(a), 3(1), 3(2)(a), 3(2)(b) and 5	John Atkinson	Cllr P Williams	Mr J Lewis	Mr M Jones	28/10/11	Other Action - Monitoring Officer advising Cllr on sending of emails
CBC38	Central Bedfordshire Councillor	J & S Boyle	24/10/11	paragraphs 3(2), 5, 6(a) and 12(1)©	John Atkinson	Cllr Mrs J Lawrence	Dr J Eilbeck	Mr K Ford	18/11/11	referred to the Standards for England
CBC39	Parish Council member	L Trevena	28/10/11	failure to declare pp and bringing office into dispute	John Atkinson	Cllr Peter Williams	John Lewis	Mr M Jones	06/01/12	
CBC40	Parish Council member	L Trevena	28/10/11	failure to declare pp and bringing office into dispute	John Atkinson	Cllr Peter Williams	John Lewis	Mr M Jones	06/01/12	
CBC41	Parish Council member	S Coates	08/11/11	failure to declare a pp	John Atkinson	Cllr Peter Williams	John Lewis	Mr M Jones	06/01/12	
CBC42	Town Council Member	D Archer	15/11/11	para 3(2)(b)	John Atkinson	Cllr Peter Williams	John Lewis	Mr M Jones	06/01/12	
CBC43	Central Bedfordshire Council	D Thakoor	08/12/11		John Atkinson	Cllr Peter Williams	John Lewis	Mr M Jones	06/01/12	

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