

To: **Members of the Standards Committee**

**Councillors S Bland, C Fitzsimmons,
B Maher, T McCarthy and J Walker**

28 May 2013

Standards Committee
Wednesday 5 June 2013 at 3.00pm
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Warrington

Professor Steven
Broomhead
Interim Chief Executive

Town Hall
Sankey Street
Warrington
WA1 1UH

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AGENDA

Part 1

Items open to members of the public (including the press) subject to any statutory right of exclusion.

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1. **Apologies for Absence**

To record any apologies for absence received

2. **Code of Conduct – Declaration of Interests**

Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal or prejudicial interest they have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when the item is reached.

3. **Minutes**

1

To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 11 April 2013 as a correct record.

Part 2

Items of a “confidential or other special nature” during which it is likely that the meeting will not be open to the public and press as there would be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in Section 100I of the Local Government Act 1972.

4. **Appointment of Parish Council Representatives to the Standards Committee and Independent Persons to assist with complaint resolution**

Report of the Solicitor to the Council.

Interview Panel recommendations to follow.

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STANDARDS COMMITTEE

11 APRIL 2013

Present: S Bland, C Fitzsimmons, B Maher, T McCarthy and J Walker
Also Present: Mr A Mackie and Mr M Organ

ST15 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence recorded.

ST16 Code of Conduct

There were no declarations of interest made.

ST17 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

ST18 Members Code of Conduct Complaints

The Committee were provided with the verbal update on the complaints received in relation to the Members Code of Conduct since March 2012.

A document was tabled that provided an anonymised, consolidated list of the complaints received complete with information as to whether the source of the complaint was regarding a Parish or Borough Councillor, the nature of the complaint and comments relating to the resolution of the complaint.

Decision – That the report be noted.

ST19 Openness & Transparency on Personal Interest – A Guide For Councillors

The Committee considered the report of the Solicitor to the Council that provided Members with a copy of the Department for Communities and Local Government guide on personal interests which provided basic practical information on openness and transparency in relation to personal interests.

It was designed to support local councillors, including parish councillors, in the new standards arrangements introduced under the Localism Act 2011.

Decision that –

1. the report be noted
2. copies of the guidance be circulated to all Borough and Parish Councillors

ST20 Appointment of Independent and Parish Council Representatives to the Standards Committee

The Committee discussed the options open to the Council in respect of the appointment of Independent Persons and Parish Council Representatives to the Standards Committee.

At the meeting of this Committee on 25 July 2012 it had been resolved that the Council invite a maximum of three Parish Councillors to be co-opted as non-voting members of the Committee. In response to this Parish Councillor Maureen Banner had confirmed her wish to continue with the work of the Standards Committee. Additionally, three further applications had been received.

Additionally the three former Independent Members of the Standards Committee were asked to become 'Independent Persons' for the person for the purposes of the Localism Act 2011. These appointments could only be up until 30 June 2013.

All Committee members requested that a formal thank you was extended to the three previous Independent Members of the Standards Committee for the assistance they had provided during their tenure.

Decision that –

1. A job description be drawn up and an advertisement for the positions of Independent Persons be placed on the Council's internet page and forwarded to other council buildings, community buildings and partners including parish councils
2. Details of the applicants for both the Parish Council Representative and Independent Person positions be reported to the next meeting of this Committee prior to a recommendation being made to full Council.

Dated.....

Signed.....