

To: Members of the Standards Committee

Notice of a Meeting of the Standards Committee

Thursday, 26 May 2011 at 2.00 pm

County Hall, New Road, Oxford

Peter G. Clark.

Peter G. Clark
County Solicitor

May 2011

Contact Officer: **Sue Whitehead**
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Membership

<i>Councillors:</i>	Mike Badcock Norman Bolster Ann Bonner	Mrs C. Fulljames David Robertson Roz Smith	Val Smith
<i>Voting Independent Members:</i>	Dr N. Alphey Ms A. Griffiths	Professor M. Dean Mr M. Greenwood	

Declarations of Interest

This note briefly summarises the position on interests which you must declare at the meeting. Please refer to the Members' Code of Conduct in Part 9.1 of the Constitution for a fuller description.

The duty to declare ...

You must always declare any "personal interest" in a matter under consideration, ie where the matter affects (either positively or negatively):

- (i) any of the financial and other interests which you are required to notify for inclusion in the statutory Register of Members' Interests; or
- (ii) your own well-being or financial position or that of any member of your family or any person with whom you have a close association more than it would affect other people in the County.

Whose interests are included ...

"Member of your family" in (ii) above includes spouses and partners and other relatives' spouses and partners, and extends to the employment and investment interests of relatives and friends and their involvement in other bodies of various descriptions. For a full list of what "relative" covers, please see the Code of Conduct.

When and what to declare ...

The best time to make any declaration is under the agenda item "Declarations of Interest". Under the Code you must declare not later than at the start of the item concerned or (if different) as soon as the interest "becomes apparent".

In making a declaration you must state the nature of the interest.

Taking part if you have an interest ...

Having made a declaration you may still take part in the debate and vote on the matter unless your personal interest is also a "prejudicial" interest.

"Prejudicial" interests ...

A prejudicial interest is one which a member of the public knowing the relevant facts would think so significant as to be likely to affect your judgment of the public interest.

What to do if your interest is prejudicial ...

If you have a prejudicial interest in any matter under consideration, you may remain in the room but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the matter under consideration, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise.

Exceptions ...

There are a few circumstances where you may regard yourself as not having a prejudicial interest or may participate even though you may have one. These, together with other rules about participation in the case of a prejudicial interest, are set out in paragraphs 10 – 12 of the Code.

Seeking Advice ...

It is your responsibility to decide whether any of these provisions apply to you in particular circumstances, but you may wish to seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer before the meeting.

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named on the front page, but please give as much notice as possible before the meeting.

AGENDA

- 1. Election of a Chairman for the 2011/12 Council Year**
- 2. Election of a Deputy Chairman for the 2011/12 Council Year**
- 3. Subordinate Bodies**

The Committee is asked to note that the following existing subordinate bodies fall within the responsibility of this Committee. Appointments to them are not needed at the present time.

Initial Assessment Panel	Two Councillors and 1 independent member of the Committee (drawn from the membership of the Committee)
Review Panel	Two Councillors and 1 independent member of the Committee (drawn from the membership of the Committee)
Hearings Panel	Two Councillor members of the Committee and 1 independent member of the Committee (may comprise more than three members of the Committee, up to and including the whole membership of the Committee)
Dispensations Sub-Committee	Membership to be a minimum of three members of the Committee (including one independent member of the Committee)

- 4. Apologies for Absence**
- 5. Declarations of Interest - see guidance note**
- 6. Minutes (Pages 1 - 6)**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2010 (**ST6**) and to receive for information any matters arising on them.

7. Petitions and Public Address

8. Annual Report of the Committee 2010/2011 (Pages 7 - 12)

Report by the Chairman of the Standards Committee (**ST8**)

The report summarises the work of the Committee over the last year. Council will consider the report at its meeting on 14 June 2011.

The Committee is RECOMMENDED to consider and endorse the report.

9. Annual Monitoring Officer Report (Pages 13 - 24)

Report by the Monitoring Officer and County Solicitor

The Monitoring Officer reports annually to the Standards Committee on governance and conduct issues. This report summarises progress, developments and the changing context over the past year.

The Committee is RECOMMENDED to consider and endorse the report.

10. Guidance Document: Members on Outside Bodies (Pages 25 - 36)

The Monitoring Officer has produced draft guidance to assist councillors with their roles and responsibilities for Councillors appointed to represent the Council on Outside Bodies.

The Committee is RECOMMENDED to consider and endorse the guidance to members.

11. Update on the Standards Regime (Pages 37 - 40)

This report advises the Committee on the impending changes to the standards regime envisaged in the Localism Bill.

The Committee is RECOMMENDED to consider and comment upon the implications for Oxfordshire County Council of the changes to the standards regime contained in the Localism Bill and as outlined in this report.