

# AGENDA - STANDARDS COMMITTEE - 4<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012

## PART ONE - OPEN COMMITTEE

1. **Apologies for Absence**

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Members are invited to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have in any items to be considered at this meeting.

If Councillors have any questions relating to predetermination, bias or interests in items on this Agenda, then please contact the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

3. **Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

To consider items which, in the opinion of the Chairman, should be considered by the Meeting as matters of urgency (if any).

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4. **Confirmation of Minutes**

Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2012 (previously circulated)

5. **The New Standards Regime**

Monitoring Officer to lead

6. **General Dispensation and amendment to delegation of powers to grant dispensations**

Report of the Monitoring Officer

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7. **Procedures**

Monitoring Officer to give a verbal update on progress with the new standards procedures

8. **Appointment of Sub-Committee**

To appoint Members to the Sub-Committee

## **PART TWO – ITEMS WHICH MAY BE TAKEN IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ON THE GROUNDS THAT EXEMPT INFORMATION MAY BE DISCLOSED (if any)**

If any, the Committee is recommended to pass the following resolution:-

“**RESOLVED** that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the Meeting on the grounds that exempt information may be disclosed as defined in Part I of Schedule 12(A) to the Act”.

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# Standards Committee

## Composition

### 1. Membership of the Standards Committee

- a. The Standards Committee shall comprise nine Members of the Council
- b. The Chairman and Vice Chairman shall be appointed by the Council in accordance with the Council's Procedure rules in Part 4 of the Constitution.
- c. The Standards Committee may co-opt up to two parish / town council representatives from a parish/town council in the Borough

### 2. Membership of Sub-committees of the Standards Committee

- The Standards Committee shall appoint sub-committees of three members to deal with specific standards complaints
- Sub-committees will consult (where co-opted) parish / town councillors on decisions relating to town or parish councillors

### 3. Quorum for the Standards Committee and its sub-committees:

- **Three** members for the duration of the meeting.

### 4. Roles and functions of the Standards Committee

- a. To promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Councillors and co-opted Members;
- b. To assist Councillors and co-opted Members to observe the Members' Code of Conduct;
- c. To advise the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct, and on matters relating to the ethical conduct of the Council and its Members;
- d. To advise and train Councillors and co-opted Members on matters relating to the Code of Conduct;
- e. To grant dispensations to Borough Councillors (and where relevant, co-opted Members to the Borough Council) from requirements relating to Disclosable Pecuniary interests in the following circumstances:
  - i. Where so many members of the decision-making body have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest that Political Balance would be affected
  - ii. It is in the interests of the inhabitants that a dispensation be granted, or

iii. It is appropriate to grant a dispensation

1. To consult the Independent Person(s) in relation to matters referred for investigation and hearings
2. To consider complaints alleging a breach of the Code of Conduct by Borough Councillors (and any co-opted members where relevant) and those members of town and parish councils in the Borough of West Devon.
3. To receive Investigation reports and to carry out hearings in respect of allegations of misconduct for Borough members (and co-opted members where relevant) and town/parish council members and to recommend sanctions or other recommendations/actions

### **Roles and functions of the Standards sub-committees**

- To consider complaints alleging members' breach of the Code of Conduct; as referred by the Monitoring Officer
- To receive investigation reports and carry out Hearings in respect of allegations of misconduct

### **Budget**

To have authority for spending within the allocated budget.

### **Annual Review**

The Standards Committee shall report annually to Council on its performance and achievements.