

## Decision Summary

**Committee:** Standards Committee  
**Date:** 12 January 2010  
**Committee Clerk:** Andrea Woodside  
**Tel:** 01484 221000

### Chair

David Paul Sheard

### Councillors Attended

Nigel Patrick, David Ridgway, Christine M L Smith, Ken Smith

### Co-opted Members

Rev M Roberts (Independent Member)  
Mr P Blythe (Chair) (Independent Member)  
Councillor C Kaye (Holme Valley Parish Council)  
Prof A Kitson (Independent Member)

### Apologies

Mr D J Binns (Independent Member)  
Councillor M Barlow (Denby Dale Parish Council)  
Councillor P Cunnington (Kirkburton Parish Council)

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### 1. Minutes of previous meeting

To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17 November 2009.

**Decision:** Approved as a correct record.

### 2. Interests

The Councillors will be asked to say if there are any items on the Agenda about which they might have a personal interest which prevents them from taking part in the discussions. They could be financial or some other reason. A form is attached for completion by Councillors if they have an interest in any of the items to be discussed at the meeting. Please complete this form and return it to the Committee Officer at the end of the meeting.

**Decision:** None declared.

### 3. Admission of the public

Most debates take place in public. This only changes when there is a need to consider certain issues, for instance, commercially sensitive information or details concerning an individual. You will be told at this point whether there are any items on the Agenda which are to be discussed in private.

**Decision:** Determined all the business would be considered in public.

### 4. Deputations / Petitions

The Committee will receive any petitions and hear any deputations from members of the public.

A deputation is where up to five people can attend the meeting and make a presentation on some particular issue of concern. A member of the public can also hand in a petition at the meeting but that petition should relate to something on which the body has powers and responsibilities.

**Decision:** None submitted.

### 5. Public question time

The Committee will hear any questions from the general public.

**Decision:** No questions were asked.

### 6. Monitoring Officer - Update

To receive a verbal update from the Monitoring Officer on (i) Complaints (ii) Cabinet Decision on Indemnities (iii) Council decision on dispensations.

**Contact:** Vanessa Redfern 01484 221720

**Decision:** (i) Noted the update on complaints, in terms of the total number submitted, those received since the last meeting, and the number still under investigation.

(ii) Noted that the Joint Cabinet/Personnel Committee had rejected the request for extension of the Indemnity Scheme for Members to cover complaints relating to Standards issues.

(iii) Noted the Council had adopted arrangements to enable dispensation requests to be considered.

## 7. Presentation - Wakefield MDC

To receive a presentation from the Chair of Wakefield MDC Standards Committee, Rev Nairn-Briggs.

**Contact:** Dermot Pearson 01484 221437

**Decision:** Received a presentation by the Chair of Wakefield MDC Standards Committee, on a range of actions, taken and planned by that Committee, whose Chair also responded to a number of issues raised by Members.

Agreed to look at publicity for the Standards Committee; further, to continue with the current arrangements for feeding in issues through the joint biannual meetings at Chairs and Monitoring Officer meetings, and to regularly receive Minutes of the Yorkshire and Humber Independent Members' Forum.

## 8. Standards Committee - Review of Role and Function

To review the role and function of the Standards Committee.

**Contact:** Dermot Pearson 01484 221437

**Decision:** (1) Agreed to set up a working party of Committee Members to review the role and function of the Committee and report back, the received issues to include:  
politically restricted posts;  
terms of office for Independent Members;  
publicity;  
approaches of other Authorities' Standards Committees, for comparison.

(2) Noted that Reverend Roberts, Parish Councillor Kaye, and Councillor Ridgway have put themselves forward to serve on the Working Party, and that any other interested Member informs the Monitoring Officer by the end of the week.

## 9. Review of Assessment and Review Functions

To consider the assessment and review functions.

**Contact:** Dermot Pearson 01484 221437

**Decision:** Noted the report and agreed that the Monitoring officer arranges training where Committee Members could discuss how assessment decisions are made, review decisions made by the Local Assessment Sub-Committee, and consider how the system could be improved.

**10. Proposed Adoption of a Revised and Updated Councillor's Protocol for Planning Committees**

To consider the proposed revisions to the protocol.

**Contact:** Vanessa Redfern 01484 221720

**Decision:** Agreed that consideration be deferred for a further report, highlighting the proposed changes and including explanatory narrative and addressing issues relative to the role of the Standards Committee: further, that the Head of Planning Services be asked to attend in order to provide a briefing and respond to questions; also, the intended timetable for submission of the report to other Committees be adjusted accordingly.

**11. Proposed Adoption of a Revised and Updated Protocol for Speaking at Planning Committees and Sub-Committees**

To consider the proposed revisions to the protocol.

**Contact:** Vanessa Redfern 01484 221720

**Decision:** That the decision taken at item 10 above, applies to this item also.

**12. Yorkshire and Humber Independent Members Forum**

To receive the Minutes of the above, for information.

**Contact:** Dermot Pearson 01484 221437

**Decision:** Received the Minutes and agreed that Minutes of all future meetings be submitted to the Committee.

**13. Adjudication Panel for England - Decisions**

To receive details of a recent APE decision in respect of Pendle Borough Council

**Contact:** Dermot Pearson 01484 221437

**Decision:** Noted the report.