

AGENDA

Membership of STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Independent Members:

Mr Michael Carpenter (Chair); Mr Brian Little (Vice Chair)
Ms Karen Boyles; Mr Akintunde Oluwaleimu; Mr John Peters; Mr Terry Webb

Councillors:

Marion Canavon, Eddie Hardiman, Yash Gupta, John Kent, Mrs Diane Revell
and Mike Revell

Substitutes:

Councillors: Mrs Anne Cheale, Carl Morris, Val Morris-Cook, Neil Rockliffe;
Stuart St Clair-Haslam and Charles Curtis

Meeting: STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Date: THURSDAY 4 March 2010

Time: 7.00 p.m.

Venue: COMMITTEE ROOM 1

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members must declare any **personal or prejudicial interests** they have in a matter on the agenda. They should declare the interest at the appropriate point on the agenda at the start of the meeting or as soon as it becomes apparent that they have an interest.

- The existence and nature of all interests must be declared at every meeting where there will be business of the authority being discussed that relates to or affects that interest. If it is a **personal interest** the Member can participate in the debate and vote. If it is a **prejudicial interest** the Member must then leave the room unless they wish to make representations and members of the public are allowed to remain. The member must leave the room as soon as they have spoken.
- Members should give sufficient detail to identify the interest. For example: "this application relates to land which borders property owned by a friend of mine";
- Even if the interest is shown in the register of interests, it must be declared at meetings where matters affecting that interest are discussed;
- **Exemptions** from prejudicial interests include: - Housing (unless the particular tenancy/lease is affected); school meals; school transport; children in full-time school; parent governorship (unless it relates to the particular school); statutory sick pay; Members allowances; members indemnities; setting the Council Tax precept (unless in rent arrears); ceremonial honours.
- The nature of interests will be recorded. For example: "Councillor X declared a personal interest in item 3 which relates to land that –
- borders his friend's house."
- **Family** includes spouse; partner; parents; in laws; step/children; nieces and nephews. **Close association** includes friend; colleague; business associate; social contacts which are friendly or unfriendly.
- If in doubt, Members are strongly advised to seek advice from the Monitoring Officer or one of her representatives well in advance of the meeting.

Overview and scrutiny and joint committees

Members with prejudicial interests may take part in Overview and Scrutiny committees and joint committees provided the following two conditions are met:

- i. the Committee is acting in an advisory or consultative (rather than decision-making) capacity;
and
- ii. the interest is not of a financial nature.

Members are also not permitted to take part in the scrutiny of decisions taken by committees of which they are members (other than to answer questions or give evidence).

-----tear off here-----

*DECLARATION OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

Meeting: _____

Date: _____

Agenda Item No(s): _____

Nature of interest: _____

Name:
(Print) _____

Signature: _____

* Please delete as appropriate

Meeting: STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Date: Thursday 4 March 2010

Time: 7.00 p.m.

Venue: Committee Room 1

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies for absence**
- 2 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 21 January 2010 (page 3)**
- 3 Matters Arising**
To consider those matters arising from the previous Minutes
- 4 To receive additional items that the Chair is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.**
- 5 Declarations of interest**

You have a **personal interest** in any business of your authority where it relates to or is likely to affect: a) an interest that you must **register**; b) an interest that is not on your register but where the well-being or financial position of you, members of your family or people with whom you have a close association, is likely to be affected by the business of your authority more than it would affect the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision or inhabitants of the Authority's area (in all other cases).

If you declare a personal interest you can remain in the meeting, speak and vote on the matter, unless your personal interest is also a **prejudicial interest**.

Your personal interest will also be a **prejudicial interest** in a matter if all of the following conditions are met: a) the matter does not fall within an **exempt** category (as set out in paragraph 10 (2) (c) of the Code of Conduct); b) the matter affects your **financial interests** or relates to a **licensing or regulatory matter**; c) a member of the public, who knows the relevant facts, would **reasonably think your personal interest is so significant** that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest

Please refer to the guidance given on declaring interests, detailed on the inside cover. A full, detailed explanation is available in the Standards Board for England Code of Conduct (Guide for Members) May 2007.

6. Ethical Governance Audit (page 9)

To advise Members of the Committee about an Ethical Governance Audit, which will be undertaken in partnership with the Audit Commission and IDeA.

7. Standards Committee's Workplan to the end of the Municipal Year: 2009/10 and beyond (page 21)

To approve a workplan to conduct the business of the Standards Committee for 2010/2011.

8. A Training Session on Initial Assessments

Members will view a DVD entitled '*Standards for England – Assessments Made Clear*' followed by a discussion, facilitated by the Monitoring Officer.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS
(i) Scheduled Meeting Dates for Municipal year 2009: 18 June, 30 July, 24 September, 12 November 2010: 21 January, 4 March, 15 April
(ii) Quorum Three Members, of which, one must be an Independent Member.
(iii) Queries regarding this Agenda Julie Harris, Democratic Services - telephone 01375 652021 or email jaharris@thurrock.gov.uk
(iv) Changes to Membership, substitutions or apologies Julie Harris, Democratic Services - telephone 01375 652021 or email jaharris@thurrock.gov.uk

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