

Standards Committee



Date & time
Friday 2 October
2009 at 10am

Place
Committee Room B
County Hall,
Kingston upon
Thames
Surrey, KT1 2DN

Contact
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Chief Executive
David McNulty

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This meeting will be held in public. If you would like to attend and you have any special requirements, please contact Cheryl Hardman on 020 8541 9075.

Members

*Mr Simon Edge (Chairman), *Ms Karen Heenan (Vice-Chairman), *Mr Nicolas Davies LVO JP DL, +Mrs Angela Fraser DL (Banstead East), +Eber Kington (Epsom and Ewell North), +Mr Geoff Marlow (The Byfleets), +Mr David Munro (Farnham South), *Mr SFI Rutter, +Mrs Lavinia Sealy (Bisley, Chobham and West End), +Mr Colin Taylor (Epsom and Ewell South East)

+ = Elected Member

* = Independent Representative

NOTES:

1. Members are requested to let the Democratic Services Officer have the wording of any motions and amendments not later than one hour before the start of the meeting.
2. Substitutions must be notified to the Democratic Services Officer by the absent Member or group representative at least half an hour in advance of the meeting.

PART ONE - IN PUBLIC**REPORT COLOUR****1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS** **Agenda Item**

To receive any apologies for absence and notices of substitutions

2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS: 3 July 2009 and 4 September 2009 **White**

To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 3 July 2009 and the special meeting of the Standards Committee held on 4 September 2009, which are attached.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS **Agenda Item**

To receive any declarations of personal and/or prejudicial interests from Members in respect of any item to be considered at the meeting.

(Notes: Declarations of interest should be made on a form available from the Democratic Services Officer before the meeting.

Members are reminded that in accordance with the Constitution any Member declaring a prejudicial interest is required to withdraw from the meeting unless he/she has obtained a dispensation from the Standards Committee.)

4 QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS **Agenda Item**

To receive any questions or petitions.

Notes:

1. The deadline for Member's questions is 12.00pm four working days before the meeting.
2. The deadline for public questions is seven days before the meeting.
3. The deadline for petitions was 14 days before the meeting, and no petitions have been received.

- 5 ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEES: REPORT BACK** **Agenda Item**
- To receive verbal reports on processes and outcomes at any Assessment or Review Sub-Committees which have met since the previous meeting of Standards Committee.
- 6 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO STANDARDS COMMITTEE** **Agenda Item**
- To receive a verbal report from the Chairman of Standards Committee.
- 7 DETERMINATION HEARINGS SUB-COMMITTEE** **To follow**
- To agree a process for setting up Determination Sub-Committees.
- 8 DISPENSATIONS: GUIDANCE FROM STANDARDS FOR ENGLAND** **Green**
- The Standards Committee (Further Provisions) (England) Regulations 2009 came into force on 15 June 2009. As a result of these new regulations, Standards for England has now published its guidance to standards committees on granting dispensations.
- It is recommended that standards committees make available to Members the process for making requests for dispensations, the criteria that will be applied and the process that will be followed when the request is considered.
- 9 OTHER ACTION GUIDANCE** **White**
- On 26 May 2009, Standards for England published its guidance on other action as provided for by the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008. This report summarises the key points of the guidance.
- The guidance recommends that Standards Committees draw up criteria that can be referred to when a decision to take other action is made.
- 10 THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE'S ROLE IN THE GRANT AND SUPERVISION OF EXEMPTIONS FROM POLITICAL RESTRICTION** **Green**
- To decide procedures for the Committee to use when exercising its new function of making rulings on politically restricted posts.
- 11 SURREY HIGHWAYS: STANDARDS COMMITTEE CONCERNS ABOUT RESPONSES TO COMPLAINTS** **White**
- To receive a letter from the Head of Customer Service in response to Committee concerns about responses to complaints.

- 12 FAMILIES DIRECTORATE STATUTORY COMPLAINTS ANNUAL REPORT 2008/09** **Green**
- To receive the Families Directorate Statutory Complaints Annual Report 2008/09.
- 13 OUTCOMES FOLLOWING RESEARCH INTO CONTACTS MADE WITH THE SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN) SERVICE** **White**
- Following reports of low levels of complaints within the SEN Service the Committee requested some research was undertaken to establish the level of “hidden” complaints work. This report provides feedback on the research undertaken.
- Also, to update the Committee on developments in the SEN Service.
- 14 LGC STANDARDS AND ETHICS AWARD 2010** **Green**
- Standards for England has recently announced that the LGC Awards 2010 is welcoming nominations for the Standards and Ethics category.
- This report highlights the work that Surrey County Council has been engaged in between October 2008 and September 2009; demonstrating how the authority meets the Standards and Ethics Award criteria.
- 15 ACTIONS TRACKER AND WORK PLAN** **White**
- To note the Committee actions tracker and agree the forward work plan.
- 16 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**
- The date of the next scheduled meeting is 30 November 2009 at 10am.
- The dates of future scheduled meetings are:
- Monday 15 February 2010
Monday 12 April 2010

DAVID McNULTY
Chief Executive

Published: 24 September 2009

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- Distract other people
- Interrupt presentations and debates
- Mean that you miss a key part of the discussion

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Supporting Surrey County Council Values:			
Working with Others	Forward Thinking	Responsive and Reliable	Value for Money