

Please reply to:

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Our ref:
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Date: 30 January 2008

NOTICE OF MEETING:

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

DATE: THURSDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2008

TIME: 8.00PM

PLACE: COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, KNOWLE GREEN, STAINES

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Councillors:

T.W. Crabb

D.L. McShane

E. O'Hara

Mrs J.M. Pinkerton

G.F. Trussler

Independent Members:

Mr. M. Litvak (Chairman)

Vacancy

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

In the event of an emergency the building must be evacuated. All Members and Officers should assemble on the Green adjacent to Broome Lodge. Members of the Public present should accompany the Officers to this point and remain there until the Senior Officer present has accounted for all persons known to be on the premises.

THE LIFT MUST NOT BE USED.

If you would like a copy of this agenda or the attached reports in a larger print please contact Liz Phillis (01784) 446276 or e-mail l.phillis@spelthorne.gov.uk

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for non attendance.

2. MINUTES

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2007 (Copy **attached**)

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

To receive any disclosure of interests from members.

4. CONSULTATION DOCUMENT - ORDERS AND REGULATIONS FOR THE NEW LOCAL ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

To consider the **attached** report of the Monitoring Officer on the Government consultation Paper which seeks views on the detailed arrangements for putting into effect the orders and regulations to provide a revised more locally based ethical regime for the conduct of local councillors in England. The deadline for responses to the consultation is 15 February 2008

Part 10 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 amends the Local Government Act 2000 to provide for a revised ethical conduct regime for local government based on the principle of proportionate decision making on conduct issues by local authorities. In order to implement the revised regime, detailed arrangements need to be in place to allow Standards Committees and the Standards Board to undertake their new roles. These arrangements need to cover

- the operation of standards committees' power to make initial assessments of misconduct allegations;
- the operation of other functions by standards committees and the Adjudication Panel in issuing penalties and sanctions;
- the operation of the Standards Board's new strategic role to provide guidance, support and monitor the regime; and
- The rules on providing dispensations, the issue of exemptions of posts from political restrictions and the pay of local authority political assistants.

A copy of the consultation paper is **attached** for members of the Standards Committee only. The consultation paper can be viewed on Communities and Local Government's website at

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/laconduct>

The Standards Board for England has also set up a web page providing information on the local assessment and changes to the standards framework. This information can be viewed on the Standards Boards website at

<http://www.standardsboard.gov.uk/Localassessment/Aboutlocalassessment/>

5. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

To move the exclusion of the press and public for the following item of business in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the means of Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

6. INDEPENDENT MEMBER APPOINTMENT

To receive a verbal report from the Monitoring Officer on the appointment of an Independent non elected member to the Standards Committee.

MOBILE TECHNOLOGY – ACCEPTABLE USE

Use of mobile technology (mobiles, Blackberries, etc) in meetings can:

- Interfere with the PA and Induction Loop systems
- Distract other people
- Interrupt presentations and debates
- Mean that you miss a key part of the decision
-

PLEASE: Either switch off your mobile phone/BlackBerry or turn off its wireless / transmitter connection for the duration of the meeting.

Thank you for your co-operation