



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

Standards Committee

Date: Monday 16 November 2009

Time: 10.30 am

Venue: Committee Room 11, Level 1, Town Hall

Membership of the Committee:

Mr John Snadden (Chair)
Councillor Tony Burns
Councillor Sameem Ali
Councillor Glynn Evans
Councillor Alison Firth

Councillor Tom O'Callaghan
Councillor David Sandiford
Councillor Keith Whitmore
Mrs Elizabeth Carmichael
Mrs Amanda Isles

Information about Standards Committee

Everybody is welcome to attend Council Committee and Sub-Committee meetings.

The Standards Committee is chaired by an Independent Member and comprises seven councillors and three independent members, The Committee deals with matters relating to the conduct of City and Parish Councillors and the promotion of ethical standards. The members of the Committee will constitute panels to make initial assessments of written allegations of breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct and will determine whether to refer allegations to the Monitoring officer (an officer of the Council) for investigation, or to refer the allegation to the Standards Board for England for investigation. A Panel may also decide that no action should be taken in respect of an allegation.

Members of the public do not have a right to speak at meetings, however, if you have a special interest in an item on the agenda and want to speak, tell the Committee Officer, who will pass on your request to the Chair.

The law allows certain confidential items to be discussed in private and these will be taken at the end of the meeting at which point members of the public are asked to leave. The Council is concerned to ensure that its meetings are as open as possible and confidential business is kept to the strict minimum. Brief reasons for confidentiality are shown on the agenda sheet.

Copies of the agenda are available beforehand from the reception area at the St. Peter's Square entrance to the Town Hall Extension. Some additional copies are available at the meeting from the Governance Officer. The Council is concerned to ensure that its meetings are as open as possible and confidential business is kept to the strict minimum. When confidential items are involved these are considered at the end of the meeting at which point members of the public are asked to leave

Smoking is not allowed in Council buildings. Crèche facilities are available for visitors to the Town Hall by prior arrangement with the St. Peter's Children's Centre (Telephone: 0161 234 3246).

For help, advice and information about this meeting contact the Committee Officer –

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This Agenda was issued by the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit on 6 November 2009

Sir Howard Bernstein
Chief Executive

Town Hall, Albert Square
Manchester, M60 2LA

Agenda

1. **Urgent business**

To consider any items which the Chair has agreed to have submitted as urgent.

2. **Appeals**

To consider any appeals from the public against refusal to allow inspection of background documents and/or the inclusion of items in the confidential part of the agenda.

3. **Interests**

To allow Members an opportunity to [a] declare any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in any items which appear on this agenda; and [b] record any items from which they are precluded from voting as a result of Council Tax/Council rent arrears [c] the existence and nature of party whipping arrangements in respect of any item to be considered at this meeting. Members with a personal interest should declare that interest at the start of the item under consideration. If members also have a prejudicial interest they must withdraw from the meeting during the consideration of the item.

4. **Minutes**

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2009 (minutes enclosed).

5. **The Monitoring Report**

The Report of the City Solicitor **will follow**

6. **Independent Members' Terms of Office**

The Report of the City Solicitor **will follow**

7. **Annual Assembly of Standards Committees – 12/13 October 2009**

Feedback on issues arising from this year's annual assembly "Bringing standards into focus" designed to give local authorities the chance to share good practice examples and talk through the experiences of managing the practicalities of the local standards framework. Several of the sessions looked at strategic issues for ethical governance, focusing on providing local authorities with the knowledge and practical resources to promote and maintain high standards in local government.

Delegates included Councillors Burns and Sandiford, Mrs Isles, Mr Snadden and the Deputy Monitoring Officer.

The Ninth Annual Assembly of Standards Committees will be returning to the ICC in Birmingham on 18 -19 October 2010. Members are asked to consider how many places should be reserved and to nominate members to attend.

8. **Standards Board Training – Local Assessment**

Opportunity to watch the Standards for England DVD on Local Assessment. Viewers follow the work of Jack Ridley and his fellow assessment sub-committee

members as they look at a variety of complaints about councillors covered by their standards committee. The content of the DVD is designed to help standards committees and officers who are involved in the assessment of complaints that a member may have breached the Code of Conduct. It takes viewers through the main stages of local assessment, exploring important or contentious issues along the way.