Standards Committee

Date: Monday 11 January 2010

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 –

Roger Fielding   **TEL: 0161 234 3042**
                            FAX: 0161 274 7017
                            E.MAIL: r.fielding@manchester.gov.uk

This Agenda was issued by the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit on 31 December 2009

Sir Howard Bernstein	Town Hall, Albert Square
Chief Executive	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 <u>must</u> 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 16 November 2009 (minutes enclosed).

5. Terms of Reference of the Standards (Hearing) Sub Committee
The Report of the City Solicitor is enclosed.

6. Politically Restricted Posts
Report of the City Solicitor on the legislative amendments **will follow**