

South Cambridgeshire Hall
Cambourne Business Park
Cambourne
Cambridge
CB23 6EA

t: 03450 450 500
f: 01954 713149
dx: DX 729500 Cambridge 15
minicom: 01480 376743
www.scambs.gov.uk



28 February 2011

To: Chairman – Kathy English
Vice-Chairman – Alan Hampton

Members of the Standards Committee:

Diane Best	Independent Member
Alan Brett	Parish Member
Bob Bryant	Parish Member
Nigel Cathcart	District Council Member, non-group
Michael Farrar	Parish Member
Roger Hall	District Council Member, Conservative Group
John House	Independent Member
Janet Lockwood	District Council Member, Liberal Democrat Group
Cicely Murfitt	District Council Member, non-group
Tony Orgee	District Council Member, Conservative Group
Raith Overhill	Independent Member
Mary Pilfold-Allan	Independent Member
Eric Revell	Independent Member
Alex Riley	District Council Member, Independent Group
Jim Stewart	District Council Member, Liberal Democrat Group
Chris Tomsett	Parish Member
James Williams	Independent Member

and to I Dewar (County Executive Officer, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CPALC)), for information.

Dear Sir or Madam

You are invited to attend the next meeting of **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**, which will be held in the **SWANSLEY ROOM, GROUND FLOOR** at South Cambridgeshire Hall on **WEDNESDAY, 9 MARCH 2011** at **10.00 a.m.**

Yours faithfully
JEAN HUNTER
Chief Executive

The Council is committed to improving, for all members of the community, access to its agendas and minutes. We try to take all circumstances into account but, if you have any specific needs, please let us know, and we will do what we can to help you.

AGENDA

PAGES

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1. Apologies

To receive apologies for absence from committee members.

2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** 1 - 6
To authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes of the meeting held on ... as a correct record.

4. **Chairman's Address**

DECISION ITEMS

5. **HAUXTON Parish Council: Request for Dispensation** 7 - 12
For decision.
6. **Annual Standards Committee Report to Council 2011** 13 - 20
For comment and adoption.
7. **Future of Standards** 21 - 58
For discussion and for decision on whether or not to make representations to the Local Government Association (LGA) about a national unified code of conduct.

A copy of the Legal and Democratic Services Manager's 19 January 2011 report is attached for information and to aid discussion, as are the following documents which have been received since the last Standards Committee meeting:

- Localism Bill: the abolition of the Standards Board regime, clarification of the law on predetermination and the requirement to register and declare interests – Impact assessment (Department for Communities and Local Government, January 2011)
- Maintaining High Ethical Standards in Local Government (Local Government Improvement and Development / Association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors, January 2011)
- Maintaining High Ethical Standards in Local Government (Association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors Press Release, 22 February 2011)

STANDING ITEMS

8. **Update from Assessment and Review Panels** 59 - 60
To note.
9. **Advice to, and training of, District and Parish Council Members in relation to the Members' Code** 61 - 62

Document	Weekly Bulletin / E-mail
Localism Bill: the Future of Standards – letter to Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (attached)	26 January 2011 (e-mail)

To note the above.

10. **Feedback from Parish Liaison Working Group**
To note.

11. **Local Investigations, Hearings and References made to Standards for England** 63 - 64
To note.
12. **Operation of Code of Conduct and other statutory functions of the Monitoring Officer**
To note.
13. **Operation of the Council's "whistle-blowing" policy**
To note.
14. **Date of Next Meeting**
The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday 8 June 2011 at 10 am.

OUR VISION

- We will make South Cambridgeshire a safe and healthy place where residents are proud to live and where there will be opportunities for employment, enterprise and world-leading innovation.
- We will be a listening Council, providing a voice for rural life and first-class services accessible to all.

OUR VALUES

We will demonstrate our corporate values in all our actions. These are:

- Trust
- Mutual respect
- A commitment to improving services
- Customer service

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR VISITORS TO SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE HALL

While the District Council endeavours to ensure that visitors come to no harm when visiting South Cambridgeshire Hall, those visitors also have a responsibility to make sure that they do not risk their own or others' safety.

Security

Members of the public attending meetings in non-public areas of the Council offices must report to Reception, sign in, and at all times wear the Visitor badges issued. Before leaving the building, such visitors must sign out and return their Visitor badges to Reception.

Emergency and Evacuation

In the event of a fire, a continuous alarm will sound. Evacuate the building using the nearest escape route; from the Council Chamber or Mezzanine viewing gallery this would be via the staircase just outside the door. Go to the assembly point at the far side of the staff car park.

- **Do not** use the lifts to exit the building. If you are unable to negotiate stairs by yourself, the emergency staircase landings are provided with fire refuge areas, which afford protection for a minimum of 1.5 hours. Press the alarm button and wait for assistance from the Council fire wardens or the fire brigade.
- **Do not** re-enter the building until the officer in charge or the fire brigade confirms that it is safe to do so.

First Aid

If someone feels unwell or needs first aid, please alert a member of staff.

Access for People with Disabilities

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Toilets

Public toilets are available on each floor of the building next to the lifts.

Recording of Business and Use of Mobile Phones

The Council is committed to openness and transparency. Until such time as the Council's Constitution is updated to allow public recording of business, the Council and all its committees, sub-committees or any other sub-group of the Council or the Executive will have the ability to formally suspend Standing Order 21.4 (prohibition of recording of business) for the duration of that meeting to enable the recording of business, including any audio / visual or photographic recording in any format or use of social media to bring Council issues to a wider audience. To minimise disturbance to others attending the meeting, all attendees and visitors are asked to make sure that their phones and other mobile devices are set on silent / vibrate mode during meetings.

Banners, Placards and similar items

No member of the public shall be allowed to bring into or display at any Council meeting any banner, placard, poster or other similar item. The Chairman may require any such item to be removed.

Disturbance by Public

If a member of the public interrupts proceedings, the Chairman will warn the person concerned. If they continue to interrupt, the Chairman will order their removal from the meeting room. If there is a general disturbance in any part of the meeting room open to the public, the Chairman may call for that part to be cleared.

Smoking

Since 1 July 2008, the Council has operated a new Smoke Free Policy. Visitors are not allowed to smoke at any time within the Council offices, or in the car park or other grounds forming part of those offices.

Food and Drink

Vending machines and a water dispenser are available on the ground floor near the lifts at the front of the building. Visitors are not allowed to bring food or drink into the meeting room.