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28 March 2012

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

Members of the Standards Committee:

Diane Best	Independent Member
Rick Bristow	Parish Council Member
Nigel Cathcart	District Council Member, non-group
Michael Farrar	Parish Council Member
Roger Hall	District Council Member, Conservative Group
John House	Independent Member
Janet Lockwood	District Council Member, Liberal Democrat Group
Simon Martin	Parish Council Member
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, Conservative Group
Jim Stewart	District Council Member, Liberal Democrat Group
James Williams	Independent Member

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

Dear Sir or Madam

You are invited to attend the next meeting of **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**, which will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, FIRST FLOOR** at South Cambridgeshire Hall on **THURSDAY, 5 APRIL 2012** at **2.00 p.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.**

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**AGENDA**

**PAGES**

**PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

- 1. Apologies**  
To receive apologies for absence from committee members.

2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Minutes of Previous Meetings** 1 - 6  
 To authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes of the meetings held on 14 December 2011 and 14 March 2012 as correct records.

4. **Chairman's Address**

**DECISION ITEMS**

5. **COTON Parish Council: Request for Dispensation** 7 - 12
6. **Future of Standards (Localism Act 2011)** 13 - 34

**STANDING ITEMS**

7. **Update from Assessment and Review Panels** 35 - 36
8. **Advice to, and training of, District and Parish Council Members in relation to the Members' Code**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Weekly Bulletin / E-mail</b>
Standards Committee Newsletter January 2012	E-mail 9 January 2012 & Bulletin 11 January 2012
Information on General Power of Competence (part of Localism Act 2011) for qualifying Parish Councils	Bulletin 7 March 2012
Standards Committee Newsletter March 2012	E-mail 12 (District Council) and 19 March 2012 (Parish Councils) and Bulletin 14 March 2012

To note the above.

9. **Local Investigations, Hearings and References made to Standards for England** 37 - 38
10. **Operation of the Council's "whistle-blowing" policy**  
 Oral update.
11. **Date of Next Meeting**  
 Subject to the Committee's decision at item 6 above, the next meeting of the Standards Committee will take place on Thursday 10 May at 10 am in the Swansley Room.

### **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**

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. All meeting rooms are accessible to wheelchair users. There are disabled toilet facilities on each floor of the building. Infra-red hearing assistance systems are available in the Council Chamber and viewing gallery. To use these, you must sit in sight of the infra-red transmitter and wear a 'neck loop', which can be used with a hearing aid switched to the 'T' position. If your hearing aid does not have the 'T' position facility then earphones are also available and can be used independently. You can obtain both neck loops and earphones from Reception.

### **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. The Council and all its committees, sub-committees or any other sub-group of the Council or the Executive have the ability to formally suspend Standing Order 21.4 (prohibition of recording of business) upon request to enable the recording of business, including any audio / visual or photographic recording in any format.

Use of social media during meetings is permitted 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 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.