

Borough Council of
**King's Lynn &
West Norfolk**



STANDARDS COMMITTEE

AGENDA

**WEDNESDAY 15 DECEMBER 2010
at 10.30 am**

Heritage Room
Town Hall
Saturday Market Place
King's Lynn
Norfolk





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Borough Council of
**King's Lynn &
West Norfolk**



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Telephone: 01553 616377
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7 December 2010

Dear Member

Standards Committee

You are hereby invited to attend a meeting of the above Committee to be held on **Wednesday 15 December 2010**, in the **Heritage Room, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn** at **10.30 am** to discuss the business shown below.

Yours sincerely

Chief Executive

AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

2 PREVIOUS MINUTES

To approve the Minutes of the following meetings (previously circulated, copies available on request):

Full Standards Committee

18 June 2010
24 August 2010

Standards Committee – Panel Hearing

29 June 2010
11 November 2010

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Please indicate whether the interest is a personal one only or one which is also prejudicial. A declaration of an interest should indicate the nature of the interest and the agenda item to which it relates. In the case of a personal interest, the member may speak and vote on the

matter. If a prejudicial interest is declared, the member should withdraw from the room whilst the matter is discussed.

These declarations apply to all those members present, whether the member is part of the meeting, attending to speak as a local member on an item or simply observing the meeting from the public seating area.

4 RECORDING OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

To receive a report from the Deputy Monitoring Officer (attached at page 1).

5 MEMBER/OFFICER PROTOCOL ANNUAL REPORT

To receive a report from the Monitoring Officer (attached at page 2).

6 UPDATE ON STANDARDS FOR ENGLAND

To receive a verbal update from the Monitoring Officer.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING OF THE FULL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

To be agreed.

To: Councillor I Goodson, D Harwood, J Legg, A Tyler and C Walters

Mr M Sale (Independent Member), Mr R Steward (Independent Member), Mr G Brierley (Independent Member), Mr J Dawson (Parish Representative), Mr E Langford (Parish Representative), Mr D Shepperson (Parish Representative)

N Leader, Legal Services Manager/Monitoring Officer
T Campion, Solicitor and Deputy Monitoring Officer
J Bullen, Senior Lawyer

Contact: Wendy Vincent, Democratic Services Officer, (01553) 616377 or wendy.vincent@west-norfolk.gov.uk

Item 4

Recording of Parish Council Meetings

The position with regard to the recording of Parish Council meetings by members of the public or a councillor without the knowledge or consent of the Parish Council. The starting point for this would be the Parish Council's constitution which may address this issue. In the Borough Council's Constitution it says:-

"36.1 Any person wishing to broadcast or record a Meeting should seek the permission of the chair and vice chair of that meeting."

There may be a similar provision in the Parish Councils' Constitution covering this issue.

Both the Office of Surveillance Commissioners Office and Information Commissioners' Office are not interested in the recording of meetings by members of the public or Councillors. The OSC say that the recording and playback of conversations at Council meetings or phone conversations by private individuals are outside the terms of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (Directed Surveillance.) The Act only applies to Public Authorities (Borough Council) carrying out the directed surveillance.

The ICO are not concerned over this issue as they are of the opinion that there is a limited expectation of privacy at a public meeting.

The following legislation may be useful contained in the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

Section 1(7) that...nothing in this section shall require a body to permit the taking of photographs of any proceedings, or the use of any means to enable persons not present to see or hear any proceedings (whether at the time or later) or the making of any oral report on any proceedings as they take place."

Item 5**REPORT TO STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Date of meeting: 15th December 2010

MEMBER/OFFICER PROTOCOL ANNUAL REPORT**Summary**

A report to update members of the Standards Committee on the member/officer protocol.

Recommendation

That Standards Committee note the report.

1 Background

- 1.1 On the 25th June 2009 the Council adopted a member/officer protocol recommended for approval by the Standards Committee. The protocol was subsequently published on the Council's website in July 2009.
- 1.2 There have not been any subsequent referrals to the Monitoring Officer under the protocol.

2 Financial Implications

None.

3 Statutory Consideration

None.

4 Risk Assessment

N/A.

5 Access to Information

Relevant committee reports.