

A meeting of the **STANDARDS COMMITTEE** will be held in **THE GEMINI SUITE, HUNTINGDON LEISURE CENTRE, ST. PETER'S ROAD, HUNTINGDON** on **THURSDAY, 5 MARCH 2009** at **4:00 PM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

A G E N D A

APOLOGIES

1. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 4)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2008.

2. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

To receive from Members declarations as to personal and/or prejudicial interests and the nature of those interests in relation to any Agenda Items - please see Notes 1 and 2 below.

3. REPORT OF THE REFERRALS (ASSESSMENT) SUB COMMITTEE

Chairman to report.

The Review Sub Committee has not yet been required to meet.

4. APPOINTMENT OF STANDARDS (CONSIDERATION & HEARING) SUB COMMITTEE

To appoint 5 Members to comprise the Standards (Consideration & Hearing) Sub Committee to consider investigation reports and to hold determination hearings.

This Sub Committee must be Chaired by an Independent Member.

5. THE ETHICAL STANDARDS REGIME IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HUNTINGDONSHIRE

Further to Minute No 40, to receive a contribution from Councillor P J Downes.

6. THE CASE TRIBUNALS (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 (Pages 5 - 6)

To receive and note a report by the Head of Law, Property & Governance on the Case Tribunals (England) Regulations 2008.

7. QUALITY STATUS FOR PARISH COUNCILS

Further to Minute No 38 of the last meeting, the Monitoring Officer has made enquiries to establish whether there is a requirement for Parish Councils with quality status to receive refresher training on the Code of Conduct at regular intervals.

The Quality Parish & Town Council Scheme was launched in 2003 following the Government's Rural White Paper, 2000. The aim of the scheme is to provide benchmark minimum standards for parish and town councils. In order to achieve quality status, town and parish councils must demonstrate that they have reached the standard required by passing several tests including one relating to the Code of Conduct.

To meet the requirements of the scheme, a Parish Council has to submit a copy of their Council's Code of Conduct and the date of its adoption. Although the scheme does require a Parish Council to commit to training it does not specify any particular subject area nor refer to any requirement for refresher courses in respect of the Code of Conduct.

8. LOG OF CODE OF CONDUCT ENQUIRIES

Further to Minute No 42, to note the Code of Conduct enquiries recorded by the Head of Law, Property and Governance since the meeting held in December. To Follow.

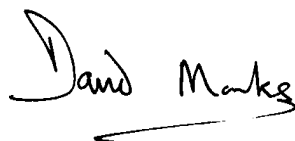
9. CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING (Pages 7 - 10)

To discuss for training purposes, the fact sheet issued by the Standards Board for England on "Personal and Prejudicial Interests".

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Committee will be held on Thursday 9th July 2009 at 4pm.

Dated this 25th day of February 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Mankie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chief Executive

Notes

1. *A personal interest exists where a decision on a matter would affect to a greater extent than other people in the District –*
 - (a) *the well-being, financial position, employment or business of the Councillor, their family or any person with whom they had a close association;*
 - (b) *a body employing those persons, any firm in which they are a partner and any company of which they are directors;*
 - (c) *any corporate body in which those persons have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000; or*
 - (d) *the Councillor's registerable financial and other interests.*
2. *A personal interest becomes a prejudicial interest where a member of the public (who has knowledge of the circumstances) would reasonably regard the Member's personal interest as being so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Councillor's judgement of the public interest.*

Please contact Ms C Deller, Democratic Services Manager, Tel No 01480 388007/e-mail: Christine.Deller@huntsdc.gov.uk if you have a general query on any Agenda Item, wish to tender your apologies for absence from the meeting, or would like information on any decision taken by the Committee.

Specific enquires with regard to items on the Agenda should be directed towards the Contact Officer.

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting as observers except during consideration of confidential or exempt items of business.

Agenda and enclosures can be viewed on the District Council's website – www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk (*under Councils and Democracy*).

If you would like a translation of Agenda/Minutes/Reports or would like a large text version or an audio version please contact the Democratic Services Manager and we will try to accommodate your needs.

Emergency Procedure

In the event of the fire alarm being sounded and on the instruction of the Meeting Administrator, all attendees are requested to vacate the building via the closest emergency exit.