



Epping Forest District Council

STANDARDS COMMITTEE Tuesday, 13th April, 2010

Place: Civic Offices, High Street, Epping
Room: Committee Room 1
Time: 7.30 pm
Committee Secretary: G Lunnun - The Office of the Chief Executive
Tel: 01992 564244 Email: glunnun@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Members:

Ms M Marshall (Chairman), Councillor B Rolfe, Councillor Mrs P Smith, G Weltch, M Wright and Councillor Mrs J H Whitehouse

Parish/Town Council Deputy Representative(s):

Councillors Mrs D Borton, J Salter and B Surtees

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. MINUTES (Pages 5 - 8)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2010 (attached).

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To declare interests in any item on the agenda.

4. STANDARDS FOR ENGLAND - ANNUAL RETURN 2009/10 (Pages 9 - 38)

Recommendation:

To consider the Annual Return for 2009/10 to be made to Standards for England.

(Monitoring Officer) Attached are the questions which form the return for 2010 together with some guidance notes issued by Standards for England.

The Return has to be submitted on-line by 16 April 2010. The attached preview of the questions shows the Annual Return in its entirety. Not all of the questions may apply to this Council and only those applicable will be displayed on the on-line

The approach of Standards for England to the Return has changed from previous years. A "tick box" questionnaire is to be used resulting in less open questions, although most questions have an option for "other" which, when ticked, will open up a free text box to type in.

5. ALLEGATIONS MADE ABOUT THE CONDUCT OF DISTRICT AND PARISH/TOWN COUNCILLORS (Pages 39 - 42)

(Monitoring Officer) To consider the attached schedule showing the current position.

6. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

(Monitoring Officer) The calendar for 2010/11 provides for meetings of the Committee on 13 July 2010, 12 October 2010, 18 January 2011 and 19 April 2011.

Additional meetings can be arranged as and when required by the Committee.

7. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

To consider whether, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press should be excluded from the meeting for the items of business set out below on grounds that they will involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act indicated:

Agenda Item No	Subject	Exempt Information Paragraph Number
8	Local Assessment Cases 1A and 5/2009	1
9	Standards for England Direction	1

To resolve that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items which are confidential under Section 100(A)(2) of the Local Government Act 1972:

Agenda Item No	Subject
Nil	Nil

Paragraph 9 of the Council Procedure Rules contained in the Constitution require:

- (1) All business of the Council requiring to be transacted in the presence of the press and public to be completed by 10.00 p.m. at the latest.
- (2) At the time appointed under (1) above, the Chairman shall permit the completion of debate on any item still under consideration, and at his or her discretion, any other remaining business whereupon the Council shall proceed to exclude the public and press.
- (3) Any public business remaining to be dealt with shall be deferred until after the completion of the private part of the meeting, including items submitted for report rather than decision.

Background Papers: Paragraph 8 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Constitution define background papers as being documents relating to the subject matter of the report which in the Proper Officer's opinion:

- (a) disclose any facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the report is based; and
- (b) have been relied on to a material extent in preparing the report does not include published works or those which disclose exempt or confidential information (as defined in Rule 10) and in respect of executive reports, the advice of any political advisor.

Inspection of background papers may be arranged by contacting the officer responsible for the item.

8. LOCAL ASSESSMENT CASES 1A AND 5/2009

(Monitoring Officer) To discuss issues arising from the Hearings Sub-Committee meeting held on 1 March 2010.

9. STANDARDS FOR ENGLAND DIRECTION

(Monitoring Officer) To consider an oral report on progress being made in relation to the Direction.