



Standards Committee

Date Friday 1 May 2015
Time 9.30 am
Venue Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham

Business

Part A

**Items during which the Press and Public are welcome to attend.
Members of the Public can ask questions with the Chairman's agreement.**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 February 2015 (Pages 1 - 2)
3. Declarations of Interest, if any
4. Such other business as in the opinion of the Chairman of the Meeting is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration.
5. Any resolution relating to the exclusion of the public during the discussion of items containing exempt information.

Part B

Items during which it is considered the meeting is not likely to be open to the public (consideration of exempt or confidential information)

6. Update on the handling of Current Complaints - Report of Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer (copy attached). (Pages 3 - 12)
7. Such other business as in the opinion of the Chairman of the Meeting is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration.

Colette Longbottom
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham
23 April 2015

To: The Members of the Standards Committee

Councillors J Armstrong, E Bell, J Clark, M Dixon, B Graham, G Holland,
E Huntington, I Jewell, W Stelling, B Stephens and M Williams

Parish and Town Council Representatives – Town Councillor T Batson and
Parish Councillor R Harrison

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DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of **Standards Committee** held in Committee Room 1A - County Hall, Durham on **Thursday 5 February 2015** at **9:30 am**

Present: **Councillor J Armstrong (Chairman)**

Members of the Standards Committee:

Councillors E Bell, J Clark, B Graham, G Holland, E Huntington, I Jewell, B Stephens and M Williams.

Town Councillor T Batson.

Apologies:

Councillor M Dixon and Parish Councillor R Harrison.

1 Minutes of the Meeting held 24 November 2014

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 November 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Other Business

Town Councillor T Batson raised concerns further to the recent exposure of incidents which had occurred at Rotherham Council. He felt it necessary that some words of reassurance be published by Durham County Council to state that the authority prioritised the safeguarding of children.

It was agreed that the issue would be discussed with the relevant Portfolio Holder and Corporate Director who would be best placed to lead on any such publicity.

4 Exclusion of the Public

Resolved:

That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the said Act.

5 Update on the Handling of Current Complaints

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services which provided an update report in respect of complaints of alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented the report, which demonstrated to Members the rate of business which was being dealt with in relation to Code of Conduct complaints.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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