

STANDARDS

Monday
6th October 2014
6.30 p.m.



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STANDARDS COMMITTEE

BURNLEY TOWN HALL

Monday 6th October 2014 at 4.00 p.m.

Members of the public may ask a question, make a statement, or present a petition relating to any agenda item.

Notice in writing of the subject matter must be given to the Head of Chief Executive's Office by 5.00pm on the day before the meeting. Forms can be obtained for this purpose from the reception desk at Burnley Town Hall or the Contact Centre, Parker Lane, Burnley. Forms are also available on the Council's website at www.burnley.gov.uk/meetings

Under current legislation members of the public can film or record this meeting provided they don't disrupt the meeting.

A G E N D A

1. ***Welcome/Apologies***
To welcome members and to receive any apologies for absence.
2. ***Minutes***
To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the last meeting held on 24th March 2014 (enclosed)
3. ***Additional Items of Business***
To determine whether there are any additional items of business which, by reason of special circumstances, the Chair decides should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.
4. ***Declarations of Interest***
To receive any declarations of interest from Members relating to any item on the agenda in accordance with the provision of the Code of Conduct and/or indicate if S106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to them.
5. ***Exclusion of the Public***

Please note that phones and other equipment may be used to film, record, tweet or blog from this meeting. The use of those images or recordings is not under the Council's control. No part of the meeting room is exempt from public filming.

To determine during which items, if any, the public are to be excluded from the meeting.

6. *Public Question Time*

To consider questions, statements or petitions from Members of the Public.

7. *Complaint Statistics*

To update the Standards Committee on complaints about Members received since April 2013 (report enclosed)

8. *Report back from Code of Conduct and Standards Member Workshop 30th July 2014*

To receive verbal feedback from the workshop.

9. *Work Programme*

To consider the work programme of the Committee for the Municipal Year (report enclosed)

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE

Councillors

Saeed Chaudhary

Sue Graham

Tony Harrison

Tracy Kennedy

Andrew Newhouse

Ann Royle (Chair)

Co-opted Parish members:

Alan Ravenscroft

Gill Smith

Independent member

Mark Webb

PUBLISHED 26th September 2014

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STANDARDS COMMITTEE

BURNLEY TOWN HALL

Monday 24th March 2014

PRESENT

MEMBERS

Councillor Royle in the Chair.

Councillors Brindle, Carmichael, Cooper, Harrison, and Kennedy.

OFFICERS

David Wilcock - Monitoring Officer
Ian Evenett - Internal Audit Manager
Eric Dickinson - Democracy Officer

21. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor Gill Smith.

22. Minutes

IT WAS AGREED

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on the 25th November 2013 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

23. Officer Register of Interests

The Committee received an update on the publication of the Register of Officers' Interests for members of the Council's Senior Management Group which stated that it had now been published on the Council's website.

The Committee was also updated that the Register of Interests for all staff was now able to be updated on the Council's sharepoint system on a self serve basis as soon as any changes were needed, and that it was now easier for the Register to be audited on an annual basis.

**IT WAS
AGREED**

That the report be noted

24. Complaint Statistics

The Committee received an update on the number of complaints received about Members since April 2013.

The Monitoring Officer advised that 10 complaints had been received in the year ended 31 March 2014, with 3 under investigation and 2 awaiting assessment.

Members made the following points;

- Use of mediation was enquired about
- Complainants expectations should be consistent with potential outcomes or sanctions such as censure, withdrawal of privileges, apology or suspension
- Member training on how and why standards complaints are made and other options available was suggested
- Acceptable standards of political debate were discussed
- Groups be recommended to informally make arrangements that a Member considering making a Standards complaint to the Monitoring Officer to consult with their Group Leader first for advice

**IT WAS
AGREED**

That the report be noted.

25. Annual Report Discussion

The Committee discussed the production of a Newsletter on Standards issues for Members, to co-incide with the election of Members in May 2014, as an alternative to a more formal annual report.

**IT WAS
AGREED**

That a Standards Newsletter be produced in May 2014.

26. Work Programme

The Committee discussed the Work Programme for 2013/14 and acknowledged that the items set out in the Work Programme had been covered during 2013/14.

Members made the following suggestions for the Work Programme in 2014/15;

- Looking at the Standards content on the Council's website, particularly for new Members

IT WAS AGREED That Members be recommended to contact the Monitoring Officer with any further input to the 2014/15 Work Programme.

27. Exclusion of the Public

IT WAS AGREED That the public be excluded from the meeting before discussion takes place on the items relating to Minute 27 since in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, if the public were present there would be a disclosure to them of exempt information within the meaning of Part VA of the Local Government Act 1972.

28. Whistleblowing Investigation

The Committee discussed the outcome of an investigation into whistleblowing allegations which involved joint working between Finance and Property Management and People, Law & Regulation.

IT WAS AGREED That the report be noted.

REPORT FOR INFORMATION



DATE	6th October 2014
PORTFOLIO	Resources & Performance Management
REPORT AUTHOR	Monitoring Officer
TEL NO	01282 425011 x7141
EMAIL	dtalbot@burnley.gov.uk

Member complaint statistics April 2014 to September 2014

PURPOSE

1. To update the Standards Committee on complaints about Members received since April 2014.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

2. The Committee has oversight of the Council's complaint-handling arrangements.
3. The Monitoring Officer has received 1 Member complaint in the year from 1st April 2014 to 30th September 2014. This have been dealt with as follows:

	Council	Grounds	Outcome	Learning
1.	Burnley BC	Bringing the Council into disrepute	Dealt with by way of "Other Action"	Dependent on the outcome of the "Other Action" specified

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

4. Within the approved budget.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5. None.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

6. Not applicable.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

7. The papers contain exempt information.

FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT: David Talbot x 7141

ALSO:

Note on Members Code of Conduct Training on 30th July 2014.

The training was presented by the Monitoring Officer, David Wilcock and Democracy Officer, Imelda Grady and was attended by 20 Members.

The purpose of the training was to brief Members on the Code of Conduct and connect the code to the council's core values. It also covered the rules on interests and discussed penalties for breach under the Council procedures which required consideration by the monitoring officer and in some cases the Standards Committee.

Members were informed of a new proposal whereby any complaints made by a Burnley councillor against another Burnley councillor must be considered by the relevant group leader.

Members raised issues around the receipt of press releases and community emails and following this a note was taken to the MSSWG which agreed to members receiving an automated email every Wednesday with a link to the press releases on the website and also the community webpage. Members would need to opt in to receiving community emails on a daily basis from the community engagement team.

The MSSWG also considered the essential training requirement for members on the code of conduct and for those members who sat on Regulatory committees – there was cross party agreement that

- the Code of Conduct training would be compulsory for newly elected and re-elected members and thereafter be a requirement to attend this training biennially (so they would be required to attend twice in their four year term of office) All members would still be invited on an annual basis.
- Development Control and Licensing Committee training would remain compulsory annually for members sitting on these committees

Following non-attendance the relevant Members will be informed, and if not rectified at the next available session the issue will be referred in the first instance to the relevant Group Leader.

Standards Committee Work Programme 2014/15

Date	Time	Schedule
24th June 2014		No meeting
6 th October 2014		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complaint statistics• Code of Conduct Training Feedback• Work Programme 2014-15
24 th November 2014		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update on complaints
23 rd March 2014		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Officer Register of Interests• Update on complaints• Themes for Annual Report