

DECLARATION OF INTEREST - CHECKLIST FOR ASSISTANCE OF MEMBERS – 2007

Name: Councillor

Cabinet/Council/Committee:

Date:

Item No:

Item Title:

Nature of Interest:

**A Member with a personal interest in any business of the Council must disclose the existence and nature of that interest at commencement or when interest apparent except:**

- Where it relates to or is likely to affect a person described in 8(1)(a)(i) or 8(1)(a)(ii)(aa), you need only disclose the existence and nature when you address the meeting on that business.
- Where it is a personal interest of the type mentioned in 8(1)(a)(viii), you need not disclose the nature or existence of that interest to the meeting if the interest was registered more than three years before the date of the meeting.
- Where sensitive information relating to it is not registered in the register, you must indicate that you have a personal interest, but need not disclose the sensitive information.

A Member with a prejudicial interest must withdraw, **either** immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence where 4 below applies **or** when business is considered and must not exercise executive functions in relation to that business and must not seek to improperly influence a decision.

Please tick relevant boxes

Notes

	<b>General (not at overview &amp; scrutiny)</b>		
1.	I have a personal interest* but it is not prejudicial.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>You may speak and vote</i>
2.	I have a personal interest* but do <u>not</u> have a prejudicial interest in the business as it relates to the functions of my Council in respect of:		
(i)	Housing where I am a tenant of the Council, and those functions do not relate particularly to my tenancy or lease.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>You may speak and vote</i>
(ii)	school meals, or school transport and travelling expenses where I am a parent or guardian of a child in full time education, or are a parent governor of a school, and it does not relate particularly to the school which the child attends.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>You may speak and vote</i>
(iii)	Statutory sick pay where I am in receipt or entitled to receipt of such pay.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>You may speak and vote</i>
(iv)	An allowance, payment or indemnity given to Members	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>You may speak and vote</i>
(v)	Any ceremonial honour given to Members	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>You may speak and vote</i>
(vi)	Setting Council tax or a precept under the LGFA 1992	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>You may speak and vote</i>
3.	I have a personal interest* and it is prejudicial <b>because</b> it affects my financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in 8 overleaf <b>and</b> the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice my judgement of the public interest  <b>or</b> it relates to the determining of any approval consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to me or any person or body described in 8 overleaf <b>and</b> the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice my judgement of the public interest	<input type="checkbox"/>  <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>You cannot speak or vote and must withdraw unless you have also ticked 4 or 5 below</i>  <i>You cannot speak or vote and must withdraw unless you have also ticked 4 or 5 below</i>

4.	I have a personal and prejudicial interest in the business but I can attend to make representations, answer questions or give evidence as the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>You may speak but must leave the room once you have finished and cannot vote</i>
5.	A Standards Committee dispensation applies.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>See the terms of the dispensation</i>

\* **“Personal Interest”** in the business of the Council means either it relates to or is likely to affect:

- 8(1)(a)(i) any body of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management and to which you are appointed or nominated by your authority;
- (ii) any body -
- (aa) exercising functions of a public nature;
  - (bb) directed to charitable purposes; or
  - (cc) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union),
- of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management;
- (iii) any employment or business carried on by you;
- (iv) any person or body who employs or has appointed you;
- (v) any person or body, other than a relevant authority, who has made a payment to you in respect of your election or any expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties;
- (vi) any person or body who has a place of business or land in your authority’s area, and in whom you have a beneficial interest in a class of securities of that person or body that exceeds the nominal value of £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital (whichever is the lower);
- (vii) any contract for goods, services or works made between your authority and you or a firm in which you are a partner, a company of which you are a remunerated director, or a person or body of the description specified in paragraph (vi);
- (viii) the interests of any person from whom you have received a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £25;
- (ix) any land in your authority’s area in which you have a beneficial interest;
- (x) any land where the landlord is your authority and you are, or a firm in which you are a partner, a company of which you are a remunerated director, or a person or body of the description specified in paragraph (vi) is, the tenant;
- (xi) any land in the authority’s area for which you have a licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy for 28 days or longer.

**or**

A decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting your well-being or financial position or the well-being or financial position of a relevant person to a greater extent than the majority of other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward, as the case may be, affected by the decision.

**“a relevant person”** means

- (a) a member of your family or any person with whom you have a close association, or
- (b) any person or body who employs or has appointed such persons, any firm in which they are a partner, or any company of which they are directors;
- (c) any person or body in whom such persons have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000; or
- (d) any body of a type described in sub-paragraph 8(1)(a)(i) or (ii).

**“body exercising functions of a public nature”** means

Regional and local development agencies, other government agencies, other Councils, public health bodies, council-owned companies exercising public functions, arms length management organisations carrying out housing functions on behalf of your authority, school governing bodies.

A Member with a personal interest who has made an executive decision in relation to that matter must ensure any written statement of that decision records the existence and nature of that interest.

NB Section 21(13)(b) of the LGA 2000 overrides any Code provisions to oblige an executive member to attend an overview and scrutiny meeting to answer questions.

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**HELD: 14 JULY 2011**  
Start: 4.30pm  
Finish: 5.00pm

**PRESENT**

Independent Members: J Cailles (Chairman)  
P Hanmer (Vice Chairman)  
S Ibbs  
B Winstanley

Councillors: Mrs U Atherley R Bailey  
J Davis I Moran

Parish Councillors: J Citarella R Coady

Officers: Acting Borough Solicitor  
Assistant Member Services Manager

**1. APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Independent Member, Mr P Rogan and Councillor R Bailey.

**2. URGENT BUSINESS, IF ANY, INTRODUCED BY THE CHAIRMAN**

There were no items of urgent business.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

**4. MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 7 April 2011, be received as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**5. WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS, APPOINTMENT OF PARISH REPRESENTATIVE AND TRAINING**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of People and Places which welcomed the new Members of the Committee, considered the appointment of a Parish Representative due to the vacancy that had arisen and detailed training undertaken since the last update report in June 2010.

RESOLVED: A. That Councillors Davis and Moran be welcomed as new Members on the Committee.

- B. That the Director of People and Places, in consultation with the Chairman, appoint the nominee with the highest number of votes received, as Parish Representative until the Annual Meeting in May 2012, once the appointment process is complete as detailed in paragraph 3 of the report.
- C. That the training undertaken since the last update be noted and those members of the Committee requiring further / refresher training on the Local Assessment process attend the session being held at the rise of this meeting.

## **6. OFFICER CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of People and Places setting out a revised Code of Conduct for Officers and in this respect advising that the existing Code had been in place for several years. The report advised that the Code had been amended to reflect changes in legislation as well as the recent and significant structural reorganisation.

The Committee was advised that the report had been considered at the Audit and Governance Committee on 29 June 2011 when a question was raised in respect of the re-worded Paragraph 7.2 and the removal of a requirement for officers to declare membership of a Trade Union.

Reference was also made to Schedule 1 (b), in respect of the disclosure of confidential information questioning if this should be in a written format.

- RESOLVED:
- A. That the new Code of Conduct for Officers, attached as an Appendix to the report, be approved and circulated to all staff.
  - B. That the questions raised in respect of the Code be noted and should any further changes be required these be reported to Audit and Governance Committee on 28 September 2011.

## **7. BRIBERY ACT 2010**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of People and Places which advised on the impact of the Bribery Act 2010 (the Act) and the proposed procedures to give effect to its requirements within the Council.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

## **8. THE FUTURE OF THE STANDARDS REGIME**

The Acting Borough Solicitor advised that the Localism Bill intended to give effect to the replacement standards regime was currently in the House of Lords, however no greater clarity had been received and no timescales identified.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

**9. COMPLAINTS - STATISTICS**

The Committee was advised that one complaint had been received this year which was subject to an investigation and a further complaint received in the previous years statistics had been dealt with by the Review Sub-Committee on 26 May 2011.

RESOLVED: That the latest statistics be noted.

**10. MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES**

The Committee considered the minutes of the Assessment Sub-Committee held on 6 April and 4 May 2011 and the Review Sub-Committee of 26 May 2011.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be noted.

**11. WORK PROGRAMME 2011/12**

The Committee considered the Work Programme for 2011/12.

RESOLVED: That the Work Programme be noted.

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THE CHAIRMAN



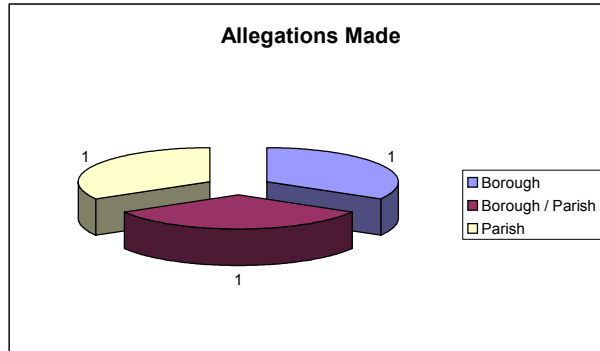
**West Lancashire Borough Council**

**Complaints to the Standards Committee 2011 / 2012**

**As at 07/12/2011**

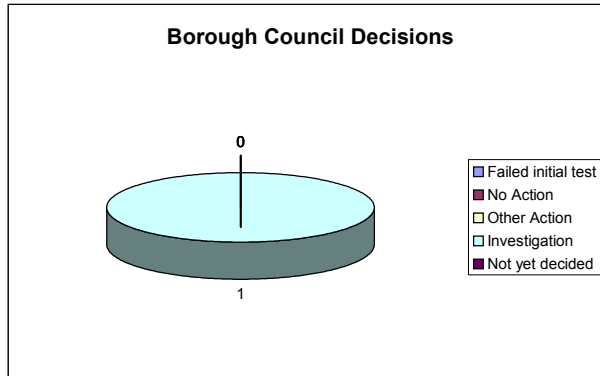
**Allegations made**

Borough	1
Borough / Parish	1
Parish	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>



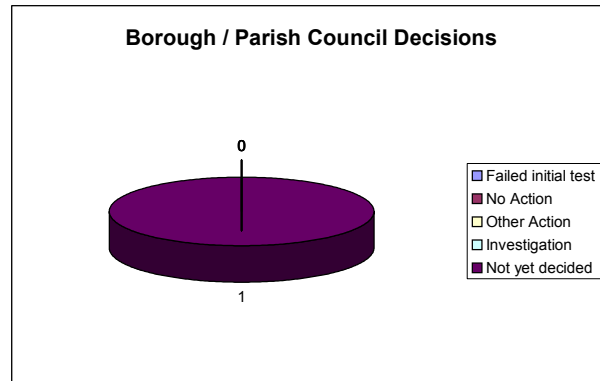
**Borough Council Decisions**

Failed initial test	0
No Action	0
Other Action	0
Investigation	1
Not yet decided	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>



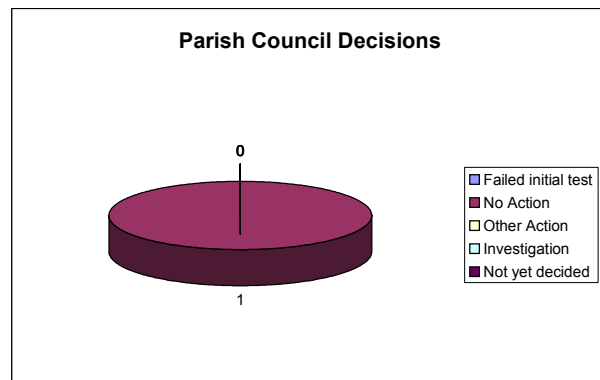
**Borough / Parish Council Decisions**

Failed initial test	0
No Action	0
Other Action	0
Investigation	0
Not yet decided	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>



**Parish Council Decisions**

Failed initial test	0
No Action	1
Other Action	0
Investigation	0
Not yet decided	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>

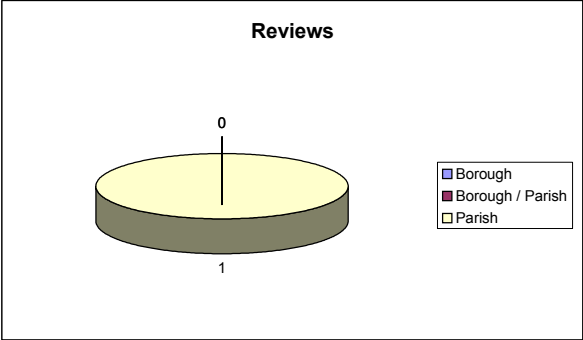






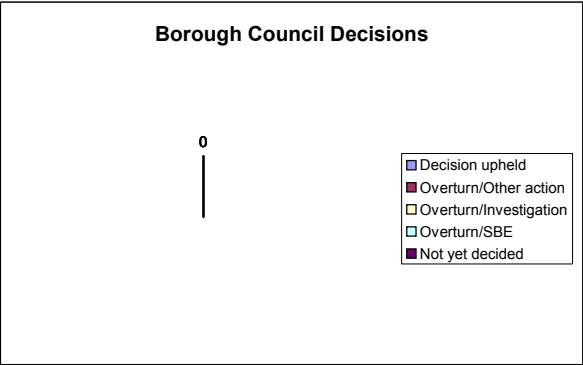
**Reviews**

Borough	0
Borough / Parish	0
Parish	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>



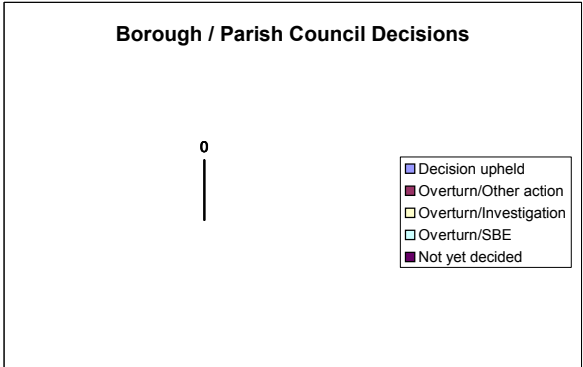
**Borough Council Decisions**

Decision upheld	0
Overturn/Other action	0
Overturn/Investigation	0
Overturn/SBE	0
Not yet decided	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>



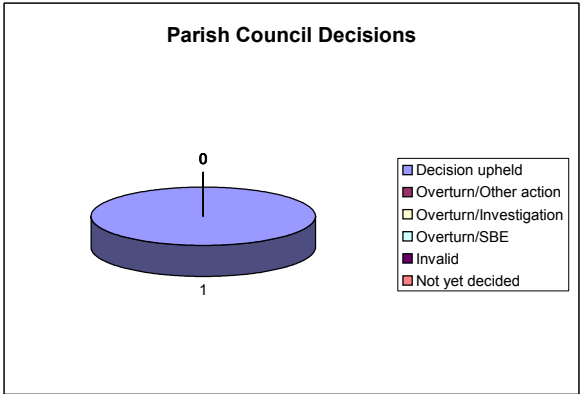
**Borough / Parish Council Decisions**

Decision upheld	0
Overturn/Other action	0
Overturn/Investigation	0
Overturn/SBE	0
Not yet decided	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>



**Parish Council Decisions**

Decision upheld	1
Overturn/Other action	0
Overturn/Investigation	0
Overturn/SBE	0
Invalid	0
Not yet decided	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>





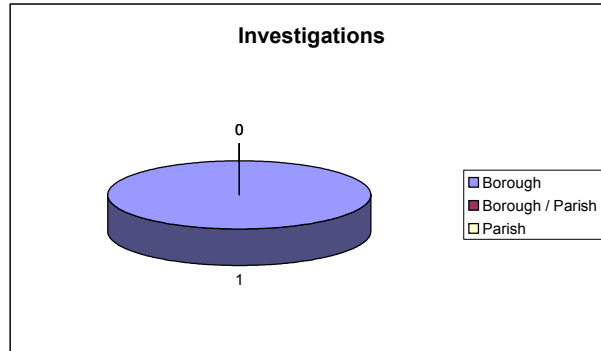
**West Lancashire Borough Council**

**Investigations - Standards Committee 2010/2011**

**As at 7/12/2011**

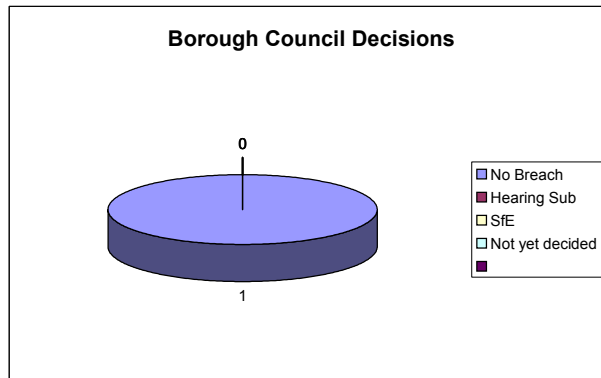
**Consideration**

Borough	1
Borough / Parish	0
Parish	0
Total	1



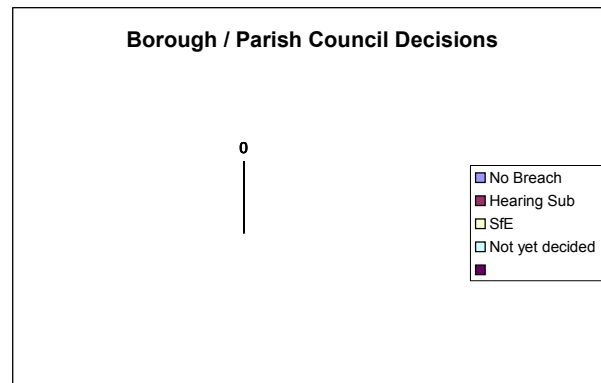
**Borough Council Decisions**

No Breach	1
Hearing Sub	0
SfE	0
Not yet decided	0
Total	1



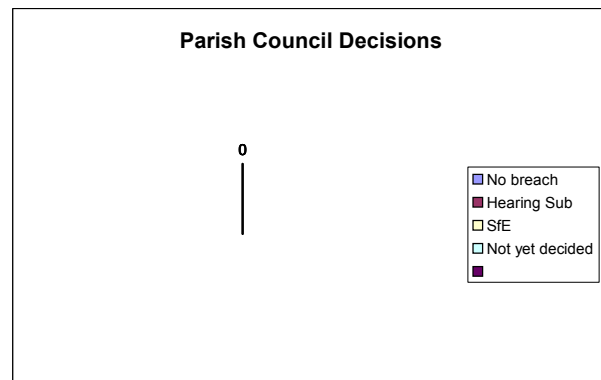
**Borough / Parish Council Decisions**

No Breach	0
Hearing Sub	0
SfE	0
Not yet decided	0
Total	0



**Parish Council Decisions**

No breach	0
Hearing Sub	0
SfE	0
Not yet decided	0
Total	0







## **AGENDA ITEM: 6**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE:  
15<sup>th</sup> December 2011**

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**Report of: Managing Director (People and Places) and Borough Solicitor**

**Contact for further information: Mrs G Rowe (Ext 5004)**

(Email: [gill.rowe@westlancs.gov.uk](mailto:gill.rowe@westlancs.gov.uk))

**Mr T Broderick (x5001)**

(E-mail: [terry.broderick@westlancs.gov.uk](mailto:terry.broderick@westlancs.gov.uk))

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**SUBJECT: LOCALISM ACT 2011- IMPLICATIONS FOR STANDARDS COMMITTEES**

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Wards affected: Borough wide

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To advise Members of the provisions in the Localism Act 2011 relevant to the Committee.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

2.1. That the contents of this report be noted and the Managing Director (People and Places) and the Borough Solicitor be asked to bring a further report and Action Plan to the Committee as further details emerge.

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### **3.0 BACKGROUND**

3.1 The Localism Act ('the Act') is the major piece of legislation through which the Government will deliver its vision of the 'Big Society'. The aim of the Act is to devolve greater powers to councils and local communities. It aims to give local authorities new freedoms and flexibilities to respond to what local people want in their area.

3.2. The Bill was introduced to Parliament on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2010 and was given Royal Assent on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2011. The Bill is now an Act of Parliament. Different parts of the Act will come into force at different times, some are already in force (see Appendix A). Although there is no guarantee about timing, as of 15<sup>th</sup> November 2011 the Government is aiming for many major measures to come into effect in April 2012. The Government will be issuing regular updates on likely start dates and public consultations on different parts of the Act. The latest information will be available at [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk).

- 3.3. The Act makes provision about many functions and procedures of local authorities including local government finance, town and country planning, community infrastructure levy and social housing. This report outlines the main provisions of the Act of particular concern to Standards Committees.

#### **4.0 NEW STANDARDS REGIME**

- 4.1. Currently all local authorities must by law adopt the model code of conduct and establish a standards committee to oversee the behaviour of Councillors and receive complaints. As Members are aware a central regulatory body, Standards for England, coordinates the regime. The Act will abolish the existing Standards Regime from a date to be appointed. The date will be confirmed in commencement orders issued by the Secretary of State it is anticipated it could be 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012, but it may now be from the date of the Annual Meeting in May.
- 4.2. The Act will introduce a revised regime with a requirement that local authorities must adopt a code of conduct and will have to investigate allegations of any member failing to comply with it. There will be no model code. Authorities will be able to either draw up their own code of conduct or revise their existing code provided that the code, when viewed as a whole, is consistent with the principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.
- 4.3. Authorities will have to put in place arrangements under which any allegations of breach of the code can be investigated, and will be required to appoint an 'independent person' whose views must be sought and taken into account before making any decision. The Act does not provide any sanctions for breaches of the code and therefore authorities will be limited as to what action they can take. There is no requirement to put in place an appeals mechanism.
- 4.4. The Act introduces a new criminal offence for councillors to deliberately withhold or misrepresent a 'disclosable pecuniary interest' such interests will be defined by regulations and must be disclosed within 28 days of a member taking office. A Member found guilty of an offence is liable on summary conviction to a fine and may also be disqualified from being a member by the court.
- 4.5. The Monitoring Officer will have to keep and publish a list of disclosable pecuniary interests. If a Member has such an interest in a particular matter, they must not participate in any discussion or vote on that matter.
- 4.6. Currently, a member with a prejudicial interest may apply to the Standards Committee for a dispensation on two grounds. The Act will widen the circumstances whereby a council may grant a dispensation allowing a member to participate in a discussion or vote on a particular matter. The power to grant a dispensation may be delegated to the Standards Committee, a sub committee or to the Monitoring Officer.
- 4.7. In relation to pre determination, the Act makes it clear that it is proper for councillors to play an active part in local discussions. Councillors will be able to have a preliminary view on matters and be free to discuss and publicise their views and voting intentions without the fear of legal challenge as a result. However, this is on the basis that they must be prepared to listen to all of the arguments and

evidence before making their decisions. This section will come into force on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

## **5.0 IMPLEMENTATION**

5.1. We will bring a detailed report on implementation of the provisions in the Act to the next meeting of the Committee for approval and submission to Council, on 29 February if the provisions are brought into force on 1 April, or Council on 11 April 2012, if the provisions come into effect from the date of the Annual Meeting. Training will have to be programmed and undertaken once the position is clarified.

## **6.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

6.1. There are no significant sustainability impacts associated with this report and, in particular, no significant impact on crime and disorder. The report has no significant links with the Sustainable Community Strategy.

## **7.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There will be significant resource implications in bringing the new arrangements into effect which must be met from existing in-house provision.

## **8.0 RISK ASSESSMENT**

8.1 This item is for information only and therefore does not require a formal risk assessment, no changes have been made to the risk registers as a result of this report at this stage.

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### **Background Documents**

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this report.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

The decision does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and/or stakeholders. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

### **Appendices**

None





Dear Monitoring Officer,

#### ARRANGEMENTS RELATING TO THE ABOLITION OF STANDARDS FOR ENGLAND

As you will already no doubt be aware, it is the government's intention to effect the abolition of the "Standards Board Regime" through the Localism Act 2011. This means that, under the standards provisions of the Act, Standards for England is to be abolished.

The government has now clarified the timetable for our abolition in response to a parliamentary question from Lord Greaves, although this is still subject to formal confirmation through regulations. It is the government's intention that our abolition will take effect on 31 March 2012.

Prior to this, our regulatory role in handling cases on your behalf and issuing guidance will stop from a date that will be set out in regulations but, as noted in the government's response to Lord Greaves, is anticipated to be 31 January 2012.

From this date, Standards for England will no longer have powers to accept new referrals from local standards committees or conduct investigations into complaints against members. Any existing referrals or investigations we have at that time will be transferred back to the relevant authority for completion. However, any complaints which are being handled locally on that date will need to continue through to a conclusion; and similarly any matters relating to completed investigations or appeals which have been referred to the First Tier Tribunal will continue to conclusion.

As stated, this means we will be returning, to local authorities, any existing referrals or open investigations which we have been unable to complete by 31 January. We currently have a number of cases which we expect will not be completed by this date, and we have already contacted the monitoring officers in question to agree handover arrangements.

You may also wish to note that - while we can continue to receive referrals of new cases up to 31 January, and we will continue to assess whether it is in the public interest to take them on or not for the short time remaining - it will become increasingly unlikely that we will feel in a position to take a case where the investigation is likely to go beyond the end of January.

Standards for England staff will, of course, continue to be on-hand between now and the end of January to facilitate the transfer of existing referrals and open cases back to local standards committees, as well as to provide advice and guidance on the current framework.

Please note that these arrangements relate only to the role of Standards for England in the current standards framework. It is for DCLG to confirm when the other standards elements of the Localism Act 2011, such as the removal of powers from existing local standards committees, the requirement to adopt a local Code and to appoint an independent member, will come into force.

Any questions about future standards arrangements should therefore be referred to the Local Government Standards team in the Conduct and Council Constitutions Division at the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). They can be contacted via the DCLG switchboard on 0303 444 0000. We will be working closely with DCLG to ensure an orderly handover and closure of our organisation.

We take this opportunity to thank you for your support and co-operation in recent months. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require further details about any of the above information. Our enquiries line is 0845 078 8181.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Leslie". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Tim Leslie  
Interim Chief Executive

**Standards Committee Work Programme 2011/12 – December 2011**

	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1 Lessons to be learned from reported complaints/monitoring of compliance with the Code	As and when required	On going
2 New/Revised Protocols	As and when required	On going
3 Annual Monitoring of Training Report	Summer 2012	On target
4. Individual Training Needs Survey, Individual Training Plans and Training Records for Independent and Parish Council Members	On hold	
5 Code of Conduct Seminar for Officers, Borough and Parish Councillors (Press Release to be issued – Details on website)	On hold	
6 Report on Annual Standards for England Conference (Para for 7 Days)	Conference on hold	
7 Visits by individual Members to Borough and Parish Council Meetings (Press Release to be issued and put on website)	Suspended	
8 Update on Whistleblowing Code	Completed	
9 Hearings and Investigations	As and when required	On going
10 Consideration of applications for dispensations	As and when required	On going

	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Comments</b>
11 Monitoring Officer meeting with Parish Clerks to discuss Standards regime	On hold	
12 Standards Committee annual meeting inviting Parish Clerks and Parish Chairman to discuss Code (Press Release to be issued)	On hold	
13 Standards for England – Annual Return	On hold	
14 Standards Committee – Annual Report	On hold	
15 Annual Meeting Standards Committee and the Chief Executive and Leaders of 2 Political Groups to discuss importance of ethical governance and Annual Report (Press Release to be issued and Para for 7 Days and on website explaining how much the Chief Executive and Leader support and encourage high ethical standards)	On hold	
16 Look at conducting research in relation to opinions of conduct in West Lancashire	On hold	
17 Look at the potential involvement of the Standards Committee in complaints handling and review of Ombudsman decisions	On hold	
18 Local Filter - implementation	Continuing	Ongoing

	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Comments</b>
19 Involvement of the Standards Committee in officer code and political restrictions	On hold	
20 Future of Standards Regime	Continuing	A report on the Localism Act 2011 and the implications for the Standards Committee – December 2011



**STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
(CONSIDERATION SUB-COMMITTEE)**

**HELD: 12 OCTOBER 2011**  
Start: 4.00pm  
Finish: 4.20pm

**PRESENT:**

Independent Members: Mr B Winstanley (Chairman)  
Mr J Cailes

Councillor: I Moran

Officers: Borough Solicitor (Mr T Broderick)  
Assistant Member Services Manager (Mrs J Denning)

**1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED: That Independent Member, Mr B Winstanley, be appointed as Chairman for the meeting.

**2. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for absence.

**3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE**

There were no changes to the membership of the Sub-Committee.

**4. URGENT BUSINESS, IF ANY, INTRODUCED BY THE CHAIRMAN**

There were no items of urgent business.

**5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**6. MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2009 were received as a correct record.

**7. STANDARDS COMMITTEE - DETERMINATIONS**

The Sub-Committee considered the 'Standards Committee – Determinations' procedure set out on pages 5 to 8 of the Book of Reports.

The Borough Solicitor referred members in particular to the procedure in respect of the Consideration Sub-Committee at paragraph 3 of the document.

RESOLVED: That the procedure be noted.

**8. SUBJECT MEMBER VIEWS - EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Sub-Committee was advised that the Subject Member had been contacted in respect of whether the matter should be considered in public and that he had not expressed any views.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

**9. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 7(c) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of that Act and as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption under Schedule 12A outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

**10. LOCAL INVESTIGATION - INV7 - LG5/51**

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Director of People and Places, as contained on pages 9 to 48 of the Book of Reports, which presented a copy of the final report arising from the local investigation in respect of allegations by a member of the public that Councillor Andrew Fowler may have failed to comply with the Code of Conduct for West Lancashire Borough Council.

RESOLVED: A. That the investigating Officer's finding that Councillor Fowler had not failed to comply with the Code of Conduct for Members, be accepted (a finding of acceptance).

B. That the reason for the finding at set out in the report be agreed.

C. That the Notice of Finding be published and a notice be published on the Council's website.