

# Standards Committee

Mon 16 Jul  
2012  
7.00 pm

Council Chamber  
Town Hall  
Redditch

**REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**  


*making  
a  
difference*

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# Access to Information - Your Rights

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The Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 widened the rights of press and public to attend Local Authority meetings and to see certain documents. Recently the Freedom of Information Act 2000, has further broadened these rights, and limited exemptions under the 1985 Act.

Your main rights are set out below:-

- Automatic right to attend all Council and Committee meetings unless the business would disclose confidential or “exempt” information.
- Automatic right to inspect agenda and public reports at least five days before the date of the meeting.
- Automatic right to inspect minutes of the Council and its Committees (or summaries of business undertaken in private) for up to six years following a meeting.
- Automatic right to inspect lists of background papers used in the preparation of public reports.
- Access, upon request, to the background papers on which reports are based for a period of up to four years from the date of the meeting.
- Access to a public register stating the names and addresses and electoral areas of all Councillors with details of the membership of all Committees etc.
- A reasonable number of copies of agenda and reports relating to items to be considered in public must be made available to the public attending meetings of the Council and its Committees etc.
- Access to a list specifying those powers which the Council has delegated to its Officers indicating also the titles of the Officers concerned.
- Access to a summary of the rights of the public to attend meetings of the Council and its Committees etc. and to inspect and copy documents.
- In addition, the public now has a right to be present when the Council determines “Key Decisions” unless the business would disclose confidential or “exempt” information.
- Unless otherwise stated, all items of business before the Executive Committee are Key Decisions.
- (Copies of Agenda Lists are published in advance of the meetings on the Council’s Website:  
**[www.redditchbc.gov.uk](http://www.redditchbc.gov.uk)**

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**If you have any queries on this Agenda or any of the decisions taken or wish to exercise any of the above rights of access to information, please contact**

**Debbie Parker-Jones  
Committee Support Services**

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# STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Monday, 16th July, 2012

7.00 pm

Committee Room 2 Town Hall

## Agenda

### Membership:

Cllrs: Pat Witherspoon (Chair)  
Michael Braley (Vice-Chair)  
Phil Mould  
Debbie Taylor  
Derek Taylor

<b>1. Apologies</b>	To receive the apologies for absence and details of any Councillor nominated to attend the meeting in place of a member of the Committee.
<b>2. Declarations of Interest</b>	To invite Councillors to declare any interests they may have in items on the agenda.
<b>3. Minutes</b> (Pages 1 - 6) Chief Executive	To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 26th March 2012.  (Minutes attached)
<b>4. Monitoring Officer's Report</b> (Pages 7 - 10) Monitoring Officer	To receive a report from the Monitoring Officer on any matters of relevance to the Committee.  (Report attached)
<b>5. Localism Act 2011 - New Standards Regime - Managing Complaints</b> (Pages 11 - 18) Monitoring Officer	To consider a report on the appointment of sub-committees of the Standards Committee as part of the arrangements for managing standards complaints against elected and co-opted Members.
<b>6. Publications</b> Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services	To note any publications which the Committee may find of interest.

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<p><b>7. Work Programme</b></p> <p>(Pages 19 - 24)</p> <p>C Felton, Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services</p>	<p>To consider the Committee's Work Programme.</p> <p>(Report attached)</p>
<p><b>8. Exclusion of the Public</b></p>	<p>Should it prove necessary, in the opinion of the Chief Executive, to exclude the public from the meeting at any point during the proceedings in relation to any item(s) of business on the grounds that either exempt and/or confidential information is likely to be divulged, the following resolution(s) will be moved:</p> <p>"That under Section 100 I of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, it/they involve the likely disclosure of <u>exempt</u> information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act, as amended, the relevant paragraphs of that part being (<i>...to be specified by the Chairman at the meeting</i>), and that it is in the public interest to do so.", and/or</p> <p>"That under Section 100 A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, it/they involve the likely disclosure of <u>confidential</u> information which would be in breach of an obligation of confidence."</p>