



Standards Committee

**Wednesday, 25 February 2009 at 3.00
p.m.
Committee Room 1, Runcorn Town Hall**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David W R'.

Chief Executive

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Mr Bill Badrock (Chairman)	
Parish Councillor Ronald Crawford	
Parish Councillor Canon David Felix	
Mr Robert Garner	
Mr Tony Luxton	
Councillor Philip Balmer	Conservative
Councillor Stan Parker	Labour
Councillor Linda Redhead	Liberal Democrat
Councillor Kevan Wainwright	Labour
Councillor Mike Wharton	Labour

*Please contact Caroline Halpin on 0151 471 7394 or e-mail caroline.halpin@halton.gov.uk for further information.
The next meeting of the Committee is on 3rd June 2009*

**ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Part I

Item No.	Page No.
1. MINUTES	1 - 2
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS	
Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal or personal and prejudicial interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when that item is reached and, with personal and prejudicial interests (subject to certain exceptions in the Code of Conduct for Members), to leave the meeting prior to discussion and voting on the item.	
3. STANDARDS BOARD INFORMATION ROUND-UP	3 - 4
4. STANDARDS COMMITTEE ACTION LIST	5 - 8

In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Standards Committee on Wednesday, 7 January 2009 in Committee Room 1, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: B. Badrock (Chairman), Crawford, D. Felix, R. Garner, T. Luxton, and Councillors Parker, Redhead and Wharton

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Balmer

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Reaney, A. Jones and M. Simpson

Also in attendance: None

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE COMMITTEE**

STC14 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2008 having been printed and circulated, were signed as a correct record.

STC15 ACTION LIST

The Committee considered the Action List in detail and noted/agreed the following:

- Action No. 1 – Further training to be carried out in Warrington on 12 January 2009 and a further session was requested by the Parish Clerk,
- Action No. 17 - Although all members had attended the conference before, two seats would be requested for the 2009 event.
- Contact be made with the Standards Board for England to discuss ideas for further publicity for Halton Standards Committee; and

Action

- Old Action List items should be removed to make way for new items.

STC16 STANDARDS BOARD INFORMATION ROUND-UP

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy, which updated the Members with the latest news from the Standards Board.

The Bulletin, although informative, was considered too long by some members.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

STC17 LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Committee considered a report from the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy, requesting that the Committee review the draft Local Code of Corporate Governance and recommend it be referred to the Council for adoption and inclusion in the Council's constitution.

Members praised the contents of the report and Appendix 1 and were happy with the relevance of the report to the Committee.

A query was made with regards to the Standards Committee reporting statistics and it was confirmed that an annual report on the work of the Standards Committee would be produced, which would contain this information.

Following a comment on Member training courses, it was confirmed that those who had not been able to attend courses on the Code of Conduct in 2008, would be invited to attend at further sessions.

RESOLVED: That the Committee recommends that the Standards Committee draft Local Code of Corporate Governance be referred to the Council for adoption and inclusion in the Council's constitution.

REPORT TO: Standards Committee

DATE: 25th February 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Corporate & Policy

SUBJECT: Standards Board Information Roundup

WARDS: N/A

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To bring Members of the Committee up to date with the latest news from the Standards Board.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the Report be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Members' attention is drawn to the Standards Board for England's, web site, which is available at www.standardsboard.gov.uk. The web site has recently included a new feature in an attempt to make it more User friendly. This is by way of a new A to Z list of functions carried out by the Standards Board.

3.2 As Members will be aware, the Standards Board for England previews by a monthly Bulletin. Issue 42 is due to be published during February 2009, but has not appeared at the time of writing. Should the Bulletin be issued prior to the Meeting, then copies will be made available to Members and a synopsis produced.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton - None

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton – None

6.3 A Health Halton – None

6.4 A Safer Halton – None

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal – None

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 No key issues have been identified which require control measures.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 None

**9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None under the meaning of the Act.

REPORT TO: Standards Committee

DATE: 25th February 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Corporate & Policy

SUBJECT: Standards Committee Action List

WARDS: N/A

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To provide Members with an updated version of the action list, and to seek Items for a work programme for the next municipal year.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the Action List be noted and that consideration be given to a work programme for the municipal year 2009/2010.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Members will recall that at the last Meeting, they asked for the Action List to be pruned down with the removal of all Items which had been completed. The revised Action List is therefore attached as Appendix 1.

3.2 Members are asked to consider the outstanding matters on the List, and to give consideration to further items to be adopted as a work programme for the next municipal year.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton - None

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton – None

6.3 A Health Halton – None

6.4 A Safer Halton – None

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal – None

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 No key issues have been identified which require control measures.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 None

**9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE 25 FEBRUARY 2009

DRAFT ACTION LIST

The following list is for consideration by the Committee:-

NO.	PRIORITY	ACTION	BY	DATE
1	HIGH	Consider further training involvement by Graeme Creer (Weightmans)	OD	Further training carried out in Warrington 12 January 2009. Members' feed back would be welcome
7	MEDIUM	Develop Standards Committee internet website presence.	OD	June 2008- done. Further information uploaded on new complaints arrangements. Article prepared for Inside Halton – Looking at ways to further enhance profile of Committee – further reports will be brought back on an ongoing basis

NO.	PRIORITY	ACTION	BY	DATE
16	HIGH	Halton's preparations, arrangements and training for dealing with local filter duties.	OD	In place, but will be kept under review.