

# West Suffolk

## Joint

## Standards

## Committee

Forest Heath &amp; St Edmundsbury councils

**West Suffolk**  
 working together

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Agenda</b>																														
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Monday 13 April 2015</b>																														
<b>Time:</b>	<b>6.00 pm</b>																														
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Council Chamber District Offices</b> College Heath Road Mildenhall																														
<b>Full Members:</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chairman</b> Eddie Stewart</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Vice Chairman</b> Jim Thorndyke</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;"><u>Forest Heath</u></td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;"><u>St Edmundsbury</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>District Council</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Borough Council</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Conservative</u></td> <td>Carol Lynch</td> <td>Jim Thorndyke</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Members (3)</u></td> <td>Eddie Stewart</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Independent</u></td> <td>Roger Dicker</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Member (2)</u></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Independent Group</u></td> <td></td> <td>Derek Redhead</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Member (1)</u></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Labour Group</u></td> <td></td> <td>Bob Cockle</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Member (1)</u></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		<u>Forest Heath</u>	<u>St Edmundsbury</u>		<u>District Council</u>	<u>Borough Council</u>	<u>Conservative</u>	Carol Lynch	Jim Thorndyke	<u>Members (3)</u>	Eddie Stewart		<u>Independent</u>	Roger Dicker		<u>Member (2)</u>			<u>Independent Group</u>		Derek Redhead	<u>Member (1)</u>			<u>Labour Group</u>		Bob Cockle	<u>Member (1)</u>		
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<b>Substitutes:</b>	<u>Conservative</u> Rachel Hood Angela Rushen <u>Members (2)</u>																														
<b>Interests – Declaration and Restriction on Participation:</b>	Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest not entered in the Authority's register or local non pecuniary interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda (subject to the exception for sensitive information) and to leave the meeting prior to discussion and voting on an item in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest.																														
<b>Quorum:</b>	One Member from each Authority																														
<b>Committee administrator:</b>	<b>Helen Hardinge</b> Committee Administrator & FHDC Scrutiny Support <b>Tel:</b> 01638 719363 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:helen.hardinge@westsuffolk.gov.uk">helen.hardinge@westsuffolk.gov.uk</a>																														

# **Agenda**

## **Procedural Matters**

### **Part 1 - Public**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

**2. Substitutes**

The Member who is substituting for another Member should so indicate together with the name of the relevant absent Member.

**3. Public Participation**

Members of the public are invited to put questions/statements of not more than 3 minutes duration relating to items to be discussed in Part 1 of the agenda only.

**4. Minutes**

**1 - 4**

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2014 (copy attached).

**5. Urgent Business**

Such other business which, in the opinion of the Chairman, should be considered as a matter of urgency to be specified in the minutes.

**6. Exclusion of the Press and Public**

To consider whether the press and public should be excluded during the consideration of the following items of business because it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during the items there would be disclosure to them of exempt categories of information as prescribed in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, and indicated against each item and, in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

### **Part 2 - Exempt**

**7. Alleged Breach of the Code of Conduct (para 1)**

**5 - 22**

Report No: **JST/JT/15/001**

*(This item is to be considered under Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as it contains information relating to an individual(s) and information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual)*

# West Suffolk Joint Standards Committee



**Minutes** of a meeting of the **West Suffolk Joint Standards Committee** held on **Monday 15 December 2014** at **6.00 pm** at the **Council Chamber, District Offices**, College Heath Road, Mildenhall, IP28 7EY

Present: **Councillors**

**Chairman** Eddie Stewart  
**Vice Chairman** Jim Thorndyke

Forest Heath District Council  
Roger Dicker  
Carol Lynch

St Edmundsbury Borough Council  
Bob Cockle  
Derek Redhead

1. **Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

2. **Substitutes**

There were no substitutes at the meeting.

3. **Public Participation**

There were no questions/statements from members of the public.

4. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2014 were unanimously accepted by the Committee as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

5. **Summary of Complaints Received for 2014 (Report No: JST/JT/14/001)**

The Monitoring Officer presented this report which provided Members with a summary of the complaints received under the Code of Conduct in 2014.

In the year to-date, 12 complaints against Councillors had been received (this covered both Forest Heath District Council, St Edmundsbury Borough Council and the Parish/Town Councils within both Districts). This level of complaints did not appear to be showing significant change since the introduction of the new Standards regime, nor was there any pattern emerging that would give cause for concern.

With the vote being unanimous, it was

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

*(Councillor Roger Dicker left the meeting at 6.05 pm).*

**6. Urgent Business**

There were no items of Urgent Business raised.

**7. Exclusion of the Press and Public**

With the vote being unanimous, it was

**RESOLVED:**

That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and 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 prescribed in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and indicated against each item.

**8. Report of Code of Conduct Investigation (Exempt - para 1) (Report No: JST/JT/002)**

The Monitoring Officer presented this report which requested that the Committee consider whether there had been a breach of the Code of Conduct in this case and, if so, what sanction to impose.

Members considered the report of the Investigating Officer and the report of the Independent Person and it was proposed and duly seconded, that the Committee find that there had been a breach of paragraph 1 of the Code of Conduct. That the sanction imposed be that the Member be censured and that a letter be sent to the Member advising him that the Committee considered that this type of conduct was not appropriate and warning him to be more careful in the future.

This motion was then put to the vote and with 2 voting for the motion and with 3 voting against, the Chairman declared the motion lost.

It was then proposed and duly seconded, that the Committee find that there had been a breach of paragraph 1 of the Code of Conduct and that the sanction imposed be that the Member be asked to submit a written apology to the complainant.

With 3 voting for the motion and with 2 voting against, it was

**RESOLVED:**

That the Committee find that there had been a breach of paragraph 1 of the Code of Conduct and that the sanction imposed be that the Member be asked to submit a written apology to the complainant.

It was also agreed that the wording of the apology did not need the prior approval of the Chairman and the Monitoring Officer.

The Meeting concluded at 6.30 pm

**Signed by:**

**Chairman**

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of the Local Government Act 1972.

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