



GREAT YARMOUTH
BOROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA

for the

COUNCIL MEETING

21 February 2008

at 7.00 pm

**LARGER PRINT COPY AVAILABLE
PLEASE TELEPHONE: 01493 846325**

COUNCIL

To be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Great Yarmouth
on Thursday, 21 February 2008 at 7.00 pm

AGENDA

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

You have a **PERSONAL INTEREST** in a matter being discussed at a meeting IF

- It relates to something on your Register of Interests form; or
- A decision on it would affect you, your family or friends more than other people in your Ward.

You have a **PREJUDICIAL INTEREST** in a matter being discussed at a meeting IF

- It affects your financial position or that of your family or friends more than other people in your Ward; or
- It concerns a planning or licensing application you or they have submitted
- **AND IN EITHER CASE** a reasonable member of the public would consider it to be so significant that you could not reach an unbiased decision.

If your interest is only **PERSONAL**, you must declare it but can still speak and vote. If your interest is **PREJUDICIAL**, you must leave the room. However, you have the same rights as a member of the public to address the meeting before leaving.

1. MINUTES

To confirm the minutes of the 10 January 2008.

2. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

To consider any questions raised by a Member of the public. No questions have been received to date.

3. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Monitoring Officer's report is attached (pages 1 - 2). The Independent Chairman of the Standards Committee, Mr N Pownall, will attend to present this report.

4. **REPORTS TO COUNCIL FOR DECISION**

(a) **Medium Term Financial Strategy 2008/9 to 2010/11**

To consider the Head of Financial Services' report that was attached to the agenda for Cabinet of the 20 February 2008.

(b) **Capital Programme and Prudential Indicators 2008/9**

To consider the Head of Financial Services' report that was attached to the agenda for Cabinet of the 20 February 2008.

(c) **Treasury Management Strategy 2008/9**

To consider the Head of Financial Services' report that was attached to the agenda for Cabinet of the 20 February 2008.

(d) **Budget 2008/9 to 2010/11 and Council Tax 2008/9**

To consider the Head of Financial Services' report that was attached to the agenda for Cabinet of the 20 February 2008.

(e) **Housing Revenue Account Budget 2008/9**

To consider the Director of Community Housing's report that was attached to the agenda for Cabinet of 20 February 2008.

(f) **Housing Major Works Programme 2008/9 to 2011/12**

To consider the Director of Community Housing's report that was attached to the agenda for Cabinet of 20 February 2008.

(g) **Local Collective Agreement for Implementation of Single Status**

The Service Manager (HR)'s report will follow.

(NB Members are asked to bring their copies of the reports referred to in (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) above to the meeting).

5. **MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

(i) **Council – 10 January 2008 (White Paper)**

The Mayor will present the above minutes (attached under separate cover).

(ii) **Cabinet – 28 January and 20 February 2008 (Cream Paper)**

The Leader will present the above minutes (23 January attached under separate cover, 20 February to be tabled at the meeting).

(iii) **Scrutiny Committee – 15 January 2008 (Pink Paper)**

The Chairman will present the above minutes (attached under separate cover).

6. CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT

. . . The Head of Central Services' report is attached (page 3).

7. REPORT OF LEADER ON URGENT KEY DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING WHICH WERE NOT IN THE FORWARD PLAN

The Leader will report.

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Subject: **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Report to: Council – 21 February 2008

Report by: Monitoring Officer

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In December 2006 the Standards Committee agreed to produce an Annual Report to the Council on the work it has carried out. This is the first such Annual Report.
2. The Standards Committee met four times in 2007. It dealt with six dispensation applications, allowing Members to speak and vote on matters in which they had a prejudicial interest. Five of the applications related to Parish Councils. One application concerned Development Control Committee Members. All the applications were approved.
3. In May the Committee considered a report into a complaint that a Parish Councillor had breached the Code of Conduct. This complaint had been referred by the Standards Board for England to the Monitoring Officer to investigate. The Committee concluded that there had been no breach of the Code.
4. During the course of 2007 the vacant Independent Member position on the Committee was filled and an additional Parish Council Member was appointed. For the first time in several years the Committee is up to full strength.

5. The Committee oversaw the introduction of the new Code of Conduct in 2007 and arranged two training sessions for Borough and Parish Councillors in September.

6. The Chairman of the Committee has also taken the opportunity of attending a number of Borough and Parish Council meetings as an observer.

7. The Committee is getting ready for new changes in the Code of Conduct regime, which are due to be implemented in the spring. They will see all complaints that a Member has breached the Code coming before the Standard Committee straight away, rather than being dealt with initially by the Standards Board for England. The Standards Committee will then decide which cases are worthy of investigation.

Dept Reference: CFS/SYB - G:\HMLS\Legal\C F Skinner\Committee Admin\Council - 21 February - Annual Report of the Standards Committee.doc

Date: 16 January 2008

Background Papers: File 1/9/1/A and 1/9/1/B

Does this report raise any legal, financial, sustainability, equality, Crime and Disorder or Human Rights issues and, if so, have they been considered?	Issues	
	Legal	✓
	Financial	x
	Sustainability	x
	Equality	x
	Crime and Disorder	x
	Human Rights	x

Subject: Constitution Amendment

Report to: Council - 21 February 2008

Report by: Head of Central Services

RECOMMENDATION

That the officer delegation to write-off debts be increased from £1,000 to £2,500 and that the Constitution be amended accordingly.

1. The current Council Constitution provides that debts above £1,000 can only be written off following a decision by a single Cabinet Member.
2. The current figure was set some eight years ago. When the Council's Financial Regulations were updated in 2006 the limit was increased to £2,500. However the corresponding change required to the Constitution was overlooked.
3. It is recommended that the write-off limit requiring Cabinet Member approval be increased to £2,500.

Dept Reference: CFS/MJG

Date: 11 February 2008

Background Papers:

Does this report raise any legal, financial, sustainability, equality, Crime and Disorder or Human Rights issues and, if so, have they been considered?	Issues	
	Legal	✓
	Financial	x
	Sustainability	x
	Equality	x
	Crime and Disorder	x
	Human Rights	x