

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ETHICS AND STANDARDS

THE EARL BALDWIN SUITE, DUKE HOUSE, CLENSMORE STREET,  
KIDDERMINSTER

16TH SEPTEMBER 2010 (6.00PM)

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**Present:**

**Independent Members:**

Tim Hipkiss (Chairman)  
Rodney Reynolds

**Councillors:**

R Bishop, H E Dyke, D R Godwin, M J Hart, T Ingham, J A Shaw, K J Stokes  
and J Thomas.

**Town and Parish Members:**

Councillor R Hobson  
Councillor J Swift

**Observers:**

There were no members present as observers.

**ES.1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Reverend J Cox, Mrs C A Noons,  
and Councillors: H E Dyke, P Dyke and C D Nicholls.

**ES.2 Appointment of Substitutes**

Councillor J A Shaw was appointed as a substitute for Councillor C D Nicholls.

**ES.3 Declaration of Interests**

No declarations of interest were made.

**ES.4 Minutes**

**Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**ES.5 The Future of Standards for England**

A report was considered from the Monitoring Officer that advised Members of the Government's planned Decentralisation and Localism Bill and the current

impact on Standard for England's activities.

The Monitoring Officer advised Members that an announcement had been made by the Government that Standards for England would be abolished. She stated that she had received correspondence and had held conversations with other Monitoring Officers regarding this matter and there was currently much speculation as to what would happen in the future. She reminded Members about pre-Nolan days when the public had no confidence in the democratic process. She perceived it would be a retrograde step if the requirement to follow the Code of Conduct ceased.

**Decision: The contents of the report be noted.**

**ES.6 Complaints to the Local Government Ombudsman 2009/2010**

A report was considered from the Director of Community and Partnership Services that outlined complaints made to the Local Government Ombudsman for the period April 2009 to March 2010.

Members were advised that out of the 11 complaints referred to the Local Government Ombudsman 8 were considered to have no evidence of maladministration, 2 were dealt with by local settlement and 1 was outside jurisdiction.

**Decision: the report be noted.**

**ES.7 Partnership Behaviour Protocol**

A verbal report was given by the Monitoring Officer regarding the final version of the Partnership Behaviour Protocol.

The Protocol had been considered at the Committee's meeting in January 2010 and a number of comments were made that were fed back to Standards for England. It was therefore regrettable to note that none of the comments made had been included in the final Protocol and that indeed the final version was the same as the draft version that had been considered.

**Decision: The verbal report be noted,**

The meeting ended at 6.15 pm.