

Standards Committee

9 May 2016

Time 3.00 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Oversight
Venue Committee Room 4 - Civic Centre

Membership

Chair Cllr Ian Brookfield (Lab)
Vice-chair

Labour

Cllr Greg Brackenridge
Cllr Linda Leach
Cllr Tersaim Singh

Conservative

Cllr Andrew Wynne

Quorum for this meeting is two Councillors.

Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the democratic support team:

Contact Martyn Sargeant
Tel/Email 01902 555045 or martyn.sargeant@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Address Democratic Support, Civic Centre, 2nd floor, St Peter's Square,
Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

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Some items are discussed in private because of their confidential or commercial nature. These reports are not available to the public.

Agenda

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. Title

BUSINESS ITEMS

- 1 **Apologies for absence**
- 2 **Declarations of interest**
- 3 **Minutes of previous meeting** (Pages 3 - 4)
To agree the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 24 March 2016
- 4 **Matters arising**

DECISION ITEMS

- 5 **Exclusion of press and public**

To pass the following resolution:

That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information on the grounds shown below.

Part 2 – exempt items, closed to press and public

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 6 | Investigation of a Councillor
To consider the Monitoring Officer's report regarding an individual Councillor – to be tabled | <i>Grounds for exemption</i>
Information relating to any individual (Para 1) |
|---|---|---|

Attendance

Members of the Standards Committee

Cllr Ian Brookfield (Chair)
Cllr Andrew Wynne
Cllr Greg Brackenridge
Cllr Tersaim Singh

Employees

Paul Fantom	Interim Democratic Support Officer
Sarah Hardwick	Solicitor
Jan Hickman	Child Education Officer

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

- 1 **Apologies for absence**
An apology for absence was received from Cllr Linda Leach.

- 2 **Declarations of interest**
There were no declarations of interest.

- 3 **Minutes of previous meeting**
Resolved:
 That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2015 be approved as a correct record.

- 4 **Matters arising**
There were no matters arising.

- 5 **Making of Employment of Children Byelaw**
Sarah Hardwick presented a report which sought the Standards Committee's support for the replacement of the Employment of Children Byelaws made on 16 December 1998, together with the revocation of those Byelaws, by the Council. The procedure to be followed was in accordance with Section 236 of the Local Government Act 1972, which empowered the Council to make and revoke byelaws, and it was the role of the Standards Committee to advise the Council in this respect.

The Committee was advised that it was necessary to amend the Byelaws in respect of the permitted employment of children aged 13 in order to reflect a change in legislation. This would be achieved via the insertion of a new clause 6 to read that 'Employment of a child aged 13 years in light agricultural or horticultural work is

permitted by and under direct supervision of parents or guardians on an occasional basis’.

During the ensuing discussion, Members welcomed this measure and emphasised the importance of ensuring the safety and appropriateness of employment for children of this age.

Resolved:

That the Council is recommended to:

1. Authorise the making of the byelaw relating to the employment of children and to affix the common seal of the Council.
2. Authorise the accountable Director to publish in one or more local newspapers a notice of the Council’s intention to apply for confirmation of the byelaw.
3. Authorise the accountable Director to submit the byelaw for confirmation.
4. Approve the revocation of the existing byelaw relating to the employment of children that was made on 16 December 1998.

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Vote of thanks

Members of the Committee joined with Councillor Wynne in thanking Councillor Brookfield for his able and courteous conduct in the chair during the 2015/16 municipal year.