

HEARINGS SUB-COMMITTEE OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE

28 FEBRUARY 2012

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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Summary

To provide information on items that may be considered when the press and public are excluded.

This meeting is the hearing of the complaint:

Case Reference Number: DU/MO/113.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

There are no budget or policy framework implications arising from this report.

2. Background

2.1 Paragraphs 1-7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 permit the Council to restrict the circulation of reports. The Hearings Sub-Committee is able to rely on the provisions in the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008. The following paragraph has been referred to for this meeting:-

Definitions

7C. Information presented to a standards committee, or to a sub-committee of a standards committee, set up to consider any matter under regulations 13 or 16 to 20 of the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008, or referred under section 58(1)(c) of the Local Government Act 2000.

- 2.2. In determining whether to exclude the press and public and restrict the circulation of information the Sub-Committee must decide whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. In reaching a view the Sub-Committee should note the effect of paragraph 17 (4) of the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 which allows the subject member to prohibit the publication of a notice, in the event of the Sub-Committee finding that there has been no failure to comply with the code.

3. Financial and legal implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications to the report and the legal implications are set out in Paragraph 2.1 above.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 The committee is recommended to exclude the press and public for Item 6 as the report contains information under paragraph 7C of Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 as it is considered the need to keep information exempt outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

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Background papers

None