

14 May 2012

Dear Sir or Madam

A Meeting of the **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE** will be held in the Council Chamber, Parkside, Station Approach, Burton Street, Melton Mowbray on **Tuesday 22 May 2012 at 6.30 p.m.** at which your attendance is requested.

Yours faithfully

Lynn Aisbett
Chief Executive

A G E N D A

No.	Item
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
3.	<p>TASK GROUPS</p> <p>(1) The Committee consider which of the following Task Groups it wishes to reconstitute and appoint Members thereto:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitution Review Task Group • Performance Management Task Group • Member Development Task Group
4.	<p>THE FUTURE OF LOCAL EXTERNAL AUDIT</p> <p>The Head of Central Services to submit a report to update the Committee on the recent Government response to the consultation on the future of local external audit and the arrangements for external audit in the future.</p>
5.	<p>LOCALISM ACT – CHANGES TO STANDARDS LEGISLATION</p> <p>The Monitoring Officer to submit a report to update the committee on the changes to the system of regulation for standards of conduct in respect of elected members and co-opted members as a result of the Localism Act 2011 and to seek members views on specific aspects of these changes.</p>

No.	Item
6. To follow	<p>REFERRAL FROM FULL COUNCIL – CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES The Monitoring Officer to submit a report, in respect of the changes to the constitution that are proposed following the Abolition of Overview and Scrutiny by Full Council on 18th April 2012 and as referred by Full Council on 9th May 2012.</p>
7.	<p>URGENT BUSINESS To consider any other items that the Chairman considers urgent.</p>

To : Councillors

J. Douglas
M.C.R. Graham MBE
V.J. Manderson
S. Lumley
J.T. Orson
M.R. Sheldon
N. Slater

3 Labour Cllrs

Advice on Members' Interests

COUNCIL MEETINGS - COMMITTEE MINUTES : DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Interests need not be declared at Full Council in relation to Committee Minutes which do not become the subject of debate at Full Council (ie. Minutes referred to solely on a page by page basis when working through the Minutes of each Committee.)

An interest must be declared at Full Council as soon as it becomes apparent that a relevant Committee Minute is to be debated – this applies even if an interest has been declared at Committee and is recorded in the Minutes of that Committee.

PERSONAL AND NON-PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

If the issue being discussed affects you, your family or a close associate more than other people in the area, you have a personal and non-prejudicial interest. You also have a personal and non-prejudicial interest if the issue relates to an interest you must register.

You must state that you have a personal and non-prejudicial interest and the nature of your interest. You may stay, take part and vote in the meeting (*unless the interest is also prejudicial).

PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

If a member of the public, who knows all the relevant facts, would view your personal interest in the issue being discussed to be so great that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest and it affects your or the other person or bodies' financial position or relates to any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration then **you must state that you have a personal and prejudicial interest, the nature of the interest and you must leave the room***. You must not seek improperly to influence a decision on that matter unless you have previously obtained a dispensation from the Authority's Standards Committee.

You may not attend a meeting or stay in the room as either an Observer Councillor or *Ward Councillor or as a member of the public if you have a personal and prejudicial interest*.

BIAS

If you have been involved in an issue in such a manner or to such an extent that the public are likely to perceive you to be biased in your judgement of the public interest (bias) then you should not take part in the decision-making process; you should leave the room. **You should state that your position in this matter prohibits you from taking part.** You may request permission of the Chair to address the meeting prior to leaving the room. The Chair will need to assess whether you have a useful contribution to make or whether complying with this request would prejudice the proceedings. A Personal and Prejudicial Interest will take precedence over Bias.

In each case above, you should make your declaration at the beginning of the meeting or as soon as you are aware of the issue being discussed.*

*There are some exceptions – please refer to the Code of Conduct and Guidance.