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## **RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2008/09**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report relates to the summary of Members' attendances at meetings during 2008/09.

### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 The Standards Committee has previously agreed to receive a report each year summarising the attendance of Members at meetings, following which they are published on the Council's website and the Members' Bulletin. A schedule setting out attendance at meetings during the 2008/09 Municipal Year is appended.

### **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The current statistical format was agreed by the Standards Committee on 8 November 2005. The format was devised in the context of:-
- The statistics being as simple as possible, and avoiding percentages given the possibilities for distortion.
  - An awareness that Committee attendance figures do not take account of Member absences due to official engagements or attendance at other fora, such as Interview Panels, Group Leaders Panels, Party Group meetings and, now, Portfolio Holder Advisory Groups.
  - The production of over amounts of detail being resource intensive.
  - The role of the Standards Committee being to monitor attendance at meetings with any concerns associated with a Member's attendance being raised with the appropriate Group Leader in the first instance.
  - The maintenance of attendance information not being about competition or the development of some form of league table and recognition that concerns about attendance are always likely to be the exception rather than the rule.

### **4 DISCUSSION**

- 4.1 In terms of process, the statistics are issued to each Member for review prior to submission to the Standards Committee. This year has seen some feedback in respect of two aspects:-
- The fact that members of the public, if viewing the statistics, may not recognise the complete picture. For example, in prioritising Council work commitments/activity, a Portfolio Holder may find that attendance at a Committee meeting is not the best use of their time on the Council's behalf.

- Some absences can be due to serious illness, which again may not be recognised by the public.

4.2 In the context of historical considerations around format the Committee may wish to consider whether to continue with the current arrangements or feel it would be appropriate to retain the existing layout but bring some emphasis to the informative associated with the statistics. For instance, this could be in a prominent location and as a header rather than a footer, thus providing emphasis as to the context in which the figures need to be read. Wording could be as follows:-

“Committee attendances do not take account of Members’ absences due to illness or family commitments; nor do they take account of Members visiting or of absences due to official engagements or attendances at other fora, such as Portfolio Holder Advisory Groups, Interview Panels, Group Leaders Panels and Party Group Meetings. The attendance of Substitutes is not incorporated.”

There could also be indication that the Council has a process for both monitoring and raising concerns about attendance.

4.3 Another possible route could be to asterisk specific cases (and include associated notes) where there has been, say, serious illness. However, this could raise concerns about the disclosure of personal details and would not fit the parameters previously developed by the Committee.

## 5 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES** to receive the summary statistics, and consider whether to continue with the current arrangements or if there should be some adjustments along the lines suggested in paragraph 4.2 above.

Sarah Fowler

Head of Information and Customer Services

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### Background Papers:-

None

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If you would like this report in large print, braille or another language please contact 01702 546366.

## Appendix

## Members' attendance at Council Meetings

From 13 May 2008 - 29 April 2009 Municipal Year 2008/09

Member	Total Committees: Possible Attendance	Total Committees: Actual Attendance	Total Sub-Committees: Possible Attendance	Total Sub-Committees: Actual Attendance	Overall	
					Possible	Actual
Mrs P Aves	28	24	0	0	28	24
C I Black	38	34	4	4	42	38
Mrs R Brown	28	1	0	0	28	1
Mrs L A Butcher	44	38	0	0	44	38
P A Capon	33	25	1	1	34	26
Mrs T J Capon	39	34	0	0	39	34
M R Carter	28	22	0	0	28	22
J P Cottis	33	23	0	0	33	23
Mrs L M Cox	31	16	0	0	31	16
T G Cutmore	39	38	2	2	41	40
Mrs J Dillnutt	33	19	0	0	33	19
K A Gibbs	40	17	0	0	40	17
Mrs H L A Glynn	31	14	1	1	32	15
T E Goodwin	28	13	4	4	32	17
K J Gordon	39	32	4	3	43	35
J E Grey	28	18	0	0	28	18
K H Hudson	42	33	3	3	45	36
A J Humphries	28	26	1	1	29	27
T Livings	44	23	0	0	44	23
G Lucas-Gill	36	35	1	1	37	36
C J Lumley	28	16	0	0	28	16
Mrs J R Lumley	36	21	0	0	36	21
M Maddocks	36	30	0	0	36	30

## Appendix

Member	Total Committees: Possible Attendance	Total Committees: Actual Attendance	Total Sub-Committees: Possible Attendance	Total Sub-Committees: Actual Attendance	Overall	
					Possible	Actual
J R F Mason	28	21	0	0	28	21
D Merrick	33	29	0	0	33	29
Mrs J A Mockford	33	30	1	1	34	31
R A Oatham	31	27	1	1	32	28
J M Pullen	28	27	3	3	31	30
P R Robinson	36	13	0	0	36	13
C G Seagers	28	25	0	0	28	25
S P Smith	33	30	0	0	33	30
D G Stansby	33	24	0	0	33	24
M G B Starke	39	36	0	0	39	36
M J Steptoe	41	33	0	0	41	33
J Thomass	38	20	0	0	38	20
Mrs M J Webster	39	39	1	1	40	40
P F A Webster	44	37	0	0	44	37
Mrs C A Weston	36	30	4	3	40	33
Mrs B J Wilkins	31	30	0	0	31	30

Committee attendances do not take account of Members visiting or of absences due to official engagements or attendances at other fora, such as Advisory Groups, Interview Panels, Group Leaders Panels and Party Group Meetings. The attendance of Substitutes is not incorporated.