



Local filter: In detail

Chair: Beatrice Fraenkel, Board Member, the Standards Board for England

Gloria Oates, Chair of Standards Committee, Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council

Standards Board for England local filter pilot

- **Carried out by Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council standards committee**

Oldham's experience

Background:

- **Oldham's standards committee – up for it!**
- **Karen Mellor - Oldham's Head of Constitutional Services – Project manager for all the pilots run by Standards Board For England**

Oldham's experience

The process followed (1):

- standards committee approval – March 2007
- report to committee-June 2007
- filter pilot pack circulated with DVD and exercise date agreed

Oldham's experience

- **Pre-meeting between chair and monitoring officer held 23/7/07 to confirm:**
 - happy with summary provided SBE. In one case the monitoring officer prepared a diagram to explain the summary
 - that both chair and monitoring officer had clear understanding of the case facts
 - that both chair and monitoring officer had views with regard to the applicable clauses in the Code
- **No recommendations made:**
 - did not want to unduly influence standards committee members in coming to their conclusions

Oldham's experience

- **Would we do it differently next time?**
 - regulations and guidance from the Standards Board
 - timings
 - Code of Conduct checklist

Oldham's experience

The process followed (2):

- **26 July 2007 – pilot committee meeting**
- **all available members took part, and came prepared**
- **monitoring officer had prepared suggested timings that were agreed as framework by committee**

Oldham's experience

- **chair outlined process**
- **discussion on each case, in order provided by the Standards Board, relating them to applicable clauses in Code, using local filter pilot complaint handling chart provided by the Standards Board**
- **committee worked through the steps set out in local filter, and a record was made for transcription on to the local filter pilot decision recording form**

Action following decision

- **Draft local filter pilot recording form circulated to members following meeting by monitoring officer**
- **Meeting not recorded and published as constituted meeting, but in “real life” it would be**

Further action

- Decision notice would be published
- Relevant parties notified

} Within statutory time frames, with advice on appeals mechanisms

Resources

- **officer time – three days**
- **nine committee members**
- **in case of pilot – one extra meeting**

Process

- **Any questions on process we followed?**

Recommendations for the future

Overall:

- **good experience**
- **members enjoyed the pilot**
- **were generally well prepared and enthusiastic**

Recommendations for the future

New responsibilities need:

- **guidance**
 - clear guidance generally/on size/structure of committees
 - flow chart – good framework
 - on expertise required of committee members

- **training**
 - on process and hearings and appeals generally
 - on application of the Code
 - on the role of the Standards Board in the new world

Any questions or recommendations?

The local filter – making it work

Committee was of the view:

- **no immediate change to the membership of 11 comprising of:**
 - **four independent members**
 - **five borough councillors**
 - **two parish councillors**

- **panel to work on the principles established in the Licensing regime.**

The local filter – making it work

Committee was of the view:

- **no need to increase meetings set by annual council (previously seven, this year four) a special meeting can be called**

- **initially, no need to increase resources, but ensure speciality training providing to relevant members and officers**

- **joint arrangements to be considered**

The local filter – making it work

Any questions or recommendations?

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