

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE - TUESDAY, 22 JULY 2025**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD REMOTELY - VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON TUESDAY, 22 JULY 2025 AT 10:00**

Present

Councillor S Maughan – Chairperson

MJ Williams  
R Lynch

G Thomas

G Walter

P Baker

Apologies for Absence

None

Officers:

Kelly Watson  
Michael Pitman  
Nimi Chandrasena

Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy  
Technical Support Officer – Democratic Services  
Note Taker

Invitees

Cllr J Spanswick  
Cllr R Penhale-Thomas  
Cllr A Williams

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Martin Williams declared a person interest as he is married to one of the Group Leaders , Cllr Amanda Williams.

**188. Standards of Conduct**

Decision Made	<p>The report was presented by the Monitoring Officer, the purpose of which was to present to the Standards Committee the reports of the three political Group Leaders of the Council outlining their compliance with their duties in relation to high standards of conduct.</p> <p>The three Group Leaders presented their reports and were asked the following questions by members :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What could be the one thing each Group Leader could do to improve Member standards in the future. The Group Leaders responded that they would like to :<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Encourage and promote respect among members and for opposing parties.</li><li>- Members with senior roles to set an example for their respective party members</li><li>- Facilitate members to view footage of meetings where their conduct was not up to the expected standard</li></ul></li><li>• Members working in specific committees to receive relevant training and the online training platform to be looked into as some members have been experiencing technical difficulties.</li><li>• The Chairperson asked the Monitoring Officer to comment on the possibility of obtaining data on complaints against members. The Monitoring officer responded that in most cases Group Leaders are copied into correspondence from the inception. She stated that in situations where they are not copied, she would ask members for their consent to copy in the Group Leaders.</li><li>• A member inquired the possibility of scheduling the Standards Meeting to coincide with the Ombudsman's report. The Monitoring Officer responded that the information was not always available within the time frame, however, she had no objections to scheduling the Standards meeting as requested.</li><li>• The Chairperson asked that all Group Leaders ask the members of their party to share information relating to complaints with them.</li><li>• A Group Leader asked if there was a possibility of differentiating between the types of complaints so that Members could be made aware. The Monitoring officer stated that she would prepare a categorization that would benefit members to understand the different types of complaints.</li><li>• The Monitoring Officer suggested alerting members to the code of conduct prior to every meeting</li></ul>
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	<p>by including it into the opening speech of all meetings. A member inquired if it was possible that this could be extended to Community Councils. The monitoring officer stated that she could write to community councils for them to include either as a standing item on their agenda or as a reminder.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was a discussion around the number of Community Council meetings, member representation at such meetings and the appropriate members to represent their Community Council at the forum.</li> <li>• The Chairperson mentioned the possibility of members of the Standards committee to observe and support community council meeting specially focusing on the ones who have generated complaints and also to use the opportunity to share best practice.</li> <li>• A Group Leader inquired if recordings of Town and Community Council meetings could be shared, the Monitoring Officer responded that as the obligations of the community councils were different to Council, she would have to check the procedure.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>RESOLVED</u></b></p> <p>The Committee considered the reports attached as Appendices 1-3 and provided feedback, it was agreed that the Monitoring Officer :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain data relating to complaints to be provided to Group Leaders and also ask members against whom the complaints were made to inform their relevant Group Leader.</li> <li>• Schedule the Standards Meeting to coincide with the report from the Ombudsman regarding complaints against Councillors.</li> <li>• Prepare a categorization that would benefit members to understand the different types of complaints.</li> <li>• Look at including a statement regarding Code of Conduct in the opening speech of Committee Meetings.</li> <li>• Write to community councils for them to include Code of Conduct either as a standing item on their agenda or as a reminder.</li> <li>• Check procedure in relation to sharing recordings of Town and Community Council Meetings with a view to addressing complaints.</li> </ul>
Date Decision Made	22/07/25

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**189. Annual Report**

Decision Made	<p>The report was presented by the Monitoring Officer, the purpose of which was to gain approval from the Committee to present its Annual Report for 2024/25 to Council on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2025.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED</u></p> <p>The Committee approved the Annual Report for 2024/25 for the purpose of reporting to Council on 23/07/25.</p>
Date Decision Made	22/07/25

**190. Appointments to the Standards Committee**

Decision Made	<p>The report was presented by the Monitoring Officer, the purpose of which was to advise the Committee of two Independent Member (co-opted) appointments to the Committee to be reported to Full Council on 23 July 2025 for approval.</p> <p>The Chairperson stated that they were two strong candidates who would bring a greater diversity to the panel, which they felt was positive and beneficial for the Panel to be back to full strength. The Monitoring Officer stated that she expected to provide training opportunities to the new members in time for the next meeting of the Standards Committee.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED</u></p> <p>The Committee noted the appointments of Janet Evans and Martyn Daley to the Standards Committee to be reported to Full Council on 23 July 2025.</p> <p>The Monitoring Officer would be scheduling training for the new members in preparation for the next meeting of the Standards Committee.</p>
Date Decision Made	22/07/25

**191. Urgent Items**

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Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	22/07/25

To observe further debate that took place on the above items, please click this link

The meeting closed at 11:00.