

Agenda

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Standards Committee

Date: **Monday 2 March 2020**

Time: **6.00 pm**

Place: **St Aldate's Room - Oxford Town Hall**

For any further information please contact:

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As a matter of courtesy, if you intend to record the meeting please let the Contact Officer know how you wish to do this before the start of the meeting.

If you would like help to understand this document please call Catherine Phythian, Committee and Member Services Officer or email standards@oxford.gov.uk tel 01865 252402 in advance of the meeting.

Standards Committee

Membership

Chair	Councillor Shaista Aziz	
	Councillor Susanna Pressel	
	Councillor Michael Gotch	
	Councillor Pat Kennedy	
	Councillor Ben Lloyd-Shogbesan	
	Councillor Sian Taylor	
	Councillor Christine Simm	
	Dorian Hancock	Parish Council representative / non-voting member
	Chris Ballinger (Independent Person)	Independent Person / non-voting
	Jill McCleery (Independent Person)	Independent Person / non-voting
	Andrew Mills-Hicks (Independent Person)	Independent Person / non-voting
	Osama Raja (Independent Person)	Independent Person / non-voting

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AGENDA

Pages

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3 CODE OF CONDUCT: SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS AND INDIVIDUAL DISPENSATIONS - 30 SEPTEMBER 2019 TO 31 JANUARY 2020

1 - 6

Purpose of report:

To advise the Committee of:

1. the number of complaints received under the Members' Code of Conduct which have been, or are to be, considered by the Head of Law and Governance (in her statutory capacity as the authority's Monitoring Officer) and the Independent Persons. The report also notes the outcome, where complaints have been concluded; and
2. the number of dispensations to an individual member, granted under Section 33 of the 2011 Localism Act, by the Monitoring Officer, following consultation with an Independent Person.

Recommendation:

That the Standards Committee notes the content of the report and the learning point identified.

4 MEMBER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 2020/24

7 - 26

Purpose of report:

To seek the endorsement of the Standards Committee of the new member training and development scheme for the municipal years 2020-24.

Recommendation:

That the Standards Committee resolves to:

1. Endorse the Draft Member Training and Development Scheme (Appendix 1)
2. Note the arrangements for buddying (para. 6f & Appendix 2)
3. Note the arrangements for offering personal safety training and guidance to members and election candidates (paras. 8-9)

5 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

27 - 30

Recommendation:

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2019 as a true and accurate record.

6 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Committee is scheduled to meet at 6.00pm on the following dates:

- 29 June 2020
- 15 September 2020
- 16 November 2020
- 8 March 2021

DECLARING INTERESTS

General duty

You must declare any disclosable pecuniary interests when the meeting reaches the item on the agenda headed “Declarations of Interest” or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

What is a disclosable pecuniary interest?

Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to your* employment; sponsorship (ie payment for expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties as a councillor or towards your election expenses); contracts; land in the Council’s area; licences for land in the Council’s area; corporate tenancies; and securities. These declarations must be recorded in each councillor’s Register of Interests which is publicly available on the Council’s website.

Declaring an interest

Where any matter disclosed in your Register of Interests is being considered at a meeting, you must declare that you have an interest. You should also disclose the nature as well as the existence of the interest.

If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest, after having declared it at the meeting you must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Members’ Code of Conduct and public perception

Even if you do not have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter, the Members’ Code of Conduct says that a member “must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself” and that “you must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned”. What this means is that the matter of interests must be viewed within the context of the Code as a whole and regard should continue to be paid to the perception of the public.

*Disclosable pecuniary interests that must be declared are not only those of the member her or himself but also those of the member’s spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as husband or wife or as if they were civil partners.