

Agenda

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Standards Committee

Date: **Monday 21 October 2019**

Time: **6.00 pm**

Place: **Plowman Room - Oxford Town Hall**

For any further information please contact the Committee Services Officer:

Catherine Phythian, Committee and Member Services Officer

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If you intend to record the meeting, it would be helpful if you speak to the Committee Services Officer before the start of the meeting.

Standards Committee

Membership

Chair* Councillor Shaista Aziz

Vice-Chair* Councillor Susanna Pressel

Members Councillor Michael Gotch

**(with
substitutes)**

Councillor Pat Kennedy

Councillor Ben Lloyd-Shogbesan

Councillor Sian Taylor

Councillor Christine Simm

The full membership is seven councillors and the quorum for this meeting is three members.

Substitute members are permitted and are shown above where notification of apologies and substitutes were received before the agenda was published. Apologies and substitutions sent after publication will be reported at the meeting.

*Substitutes for the Chair and Vice-chair do not take on these roles.

Co-opted members (no voting rights):

Parish Council representative

Cllr Dorian Hancock

Other attendees (advisory role, no voting rights):

Independent Persons

Chris Ballinger

Jill McCleery

Godfrey Cole

Copies of this agenda

Reference copies are available to consult in the Town Hall Reception. Agendas are published 6 working days before the meeting and the draft minutes a few days after.

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AGENDA

Pages

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Declarations of Interest

3 Code of Conduct: summary of complaints and individual dispensations - 31 May 2019 until 30 September 2019

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 Review of Member training in Quarter 2 2019/20

7 - 14

Purpose of report:

To review the programme of training delivered to members in Q2 2019/20.

Recommendations:

That the Standards Committee resolves to:

1. Note the review of the programme of training delivered to members in Q2 2019/20.

5 Member training - Agreement of principles for the 2020-24 member training scheme

15 - 20

Purpose of report:

To seek agreement of the principles for the new member development and training scheme for the municipal years 2020-24.

Recommendations:

That the Standards Committee resolves to:

1. Comment on the proposals and respond to the questions posed in this report.

6 Dates of future meetings

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

- 2 December 2019
- 2 March 2020

7 Minutes of the previous meeting

Recommendation:

to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2019 as a true and accurate record.

Councillors 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; licenses 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 member's spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as husband or wife or as if they were civil partners.