

Agenda

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Standards Committee

This meeting will be held on:

Date: **Thursday 14 November 2024**

Time: **6.00 pm**

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

For further information please contact:

Dr Brenda McCollum, Committee and Member Services Officer,
Committee Services Officer

☎ 01865 252784

✉ standards@oxford.gov.uk

Members of the public can attend to observe this meeting and.

- may register in advance to speak to the committee in accordance with the [committee's rules](#)
- may record all or part of the meeting in accordance with the Council's [protocol](#)

Information about speaking and recording is set out in the agenda and on the [website](#)

Please contact the Committee Services Officer to register to speak; to discuss recording the meeting; or with any other queries.

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Committee Membership

Councillors: Membership 7: Quorum 3: substitutes are permitted.

Councillor Susanna Pressel (Chair)

Councillor Dr Christopher Smowton

Councillor Lizzy Diggins (Labour and Co-operative Party)

Councillor Dr Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini

Councillor Judith Harley

Councillor Kate Robinson

Councillor Naomi Waite

Chris Ballinger Independent Person non-voting

Jill McCleery Independent Person non-voting

Andrew Mills-Hicks Independent Person non-voting

Osama Raja Independent Person non-voting

Peter Nowland Blackbird Leys Parish Council
(Blackbird Leys Ward)

Apologies and notification of substitutes received before the publication are shown under *Apologies for absence* in the agenda. Those sent after publication will be reported at the meeting. Substitutes for the Chair and Vice-chair do not take on these roles.

Agenda

	Pages
1 Apologies for Absence	
2 Declarations of Interest	
3 Code of Conduct: summary of complaints and individual dispensations - 1 July 2023 until 31 October 2024	1 - 8
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.	
4 Appointment of Independent Persons in 2024/2025	9 - 10
Purpose of the report:	
This report informs the Committee on the progress for the appointment of Independent Persons in 2024.	
Recommendation: That the Standards Committee resolves to:	
1. note the progress on the appointment of Independent Persons in 2024;	
2. agree to appoint one opposition member of the Standards Committee to serve on the interview panel as required at paragraph 5, ii) of the report.	
5 Member Training Update	11 - 18

Purpose of report:

To update the Standards Committee on the delivery of Member training in 2022 and 2023 and the arrangements for member training in 2024.

Recommendation: That the Standards Committee resolves to:

1. **Note** the delivery of member induction training and development in 2024
2. **Approve** the continuation of the delivery programme for 2025.

6 Minutes of the previous meeting

19 - 20

The Committee is recommended to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2023.

7 Dates of future meetings

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

- 11 March 2025
- 07 July 2025
- 13 November 2025

Information for those attending

Recording and reporting on meetings held in public

Members of public and press can record, or report in other ways, the parts of the meeting open to the public. You are not required to indicate in advance but it helps if you notify the Committee Services Officer prior to the meeting so that they can inform the Chair and direct you to the best place to record.

The Council asks those recording the meeting:

- To follow the protocol which can be found on the Council's [website](#)
- Not to disturb or disrupt the meeting
- Not to edit the recording in a way that could lead to misinterpretation of the proceedings. This includes not editing an image or views expressed in a way that may ridicule or show a lack of respect towards those being recorded.
- To avoid recording members of the public present, even inadvertently, unless they are addressing the meeting.

Please be aware that you may be recorded during your speech and any follow-up. If you are attending please be aware that recording may take place and that you may be inadvertently included in these.

The Chair of the meeting has absolute discretion to suspend or terminate any activities that in his or her opinion are disruptive.

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". 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.