

Agenda

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Standards Committee

This meeting will be held on:

Date: **Tuesday 17 March 2026**

Time: **6.30 pm**

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

For further information please contact:

Hannah Carmody-Brown, Committee & Member 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](#)

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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 Snowton

Councillor Lizzy Diggins (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Dr Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini

Councillor Judith Harley

Councillor Naomi Waite

Councillor Dr Max Morris

Chris Ballinger Independent Person non-voting

Andrew Mills-Hicks Independent Person non-voting

Eric Feltin Independent Person non-voting

Lois Lezemore Independent Person non-voting

Ala Soualhi Independent Person non-voting

Dr Bushra Almunir Yousef 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 Councillor Pressel sent apologies.	
2 Declarations of Interest	
3 Minutes of the previous meeting Recommendation: That the Committee resolve to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2025 as a true and accurate record.	1 - 4
4 Addresses by members of the public Public addresses relating to matters of business for this agenda, up to five minutes is available for each public address. <i>The request to speak accompanied by the full text of the address must be received by the Director of Law, Governance and Strategy by 5.00 pm on Wednesday 11 March 2026.</i>	
5 Councillor addresses on any item for discussion Councillor addresses relating to matters of business for this agenda, up to five minutes is available for each address. <i>The request should be received by the Director of Law, Governance and Strategy by 5.00 pm on Wednesday 11 March 2026.</i>	
6 Appointment of a Parish Council representative as a non-voting member of the Standards Committee The Director of Law, Governance and Strategy (Monitoring Officer) had submitted a report to outline the requirement to recommend to full Council the Parish Council representative on the committee as a non-voting member.	5 - 8

Recommendation(s): That the Standards Committee resolves to:

- **Recommend to Full Council** to appoint Councillor David Newman of Blackbird Leys Parish Council as the co-opted, non-voting member of the Standards Committee representing the four Parish Councils in Oxford until May 2026.

7 Consultation Results and Government Response to Remote Meetings and Proxy Voting

9 - 28

The Director of Law, Governance and Strategy (Monitoring Officer) had submitted a report to update the Standards Committee on the Government's response to the consultation for Remote Meetings and Proxy Voting for Local Government Committees.

Recommendation(s): That the Standards Committee resolves to:

- **Note** the Government's response to the consultation for Remote Meetings and Proxy Voting for Local Government Committees.

8 Consultation Results and Government Response to Strengthening the Standards and Conduct framework for Local Authorities in England

29 - 72

The Director of Law, Governance and Strategy (Monitoring Officer) had submitted a report to update the Committee on the Government's response to Strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England.

Recommendation(s): That the Standards Committee resolves to:

- **Note** the Government's response to the consultation for Strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England.

9 Update to the Committee on Standards in Public Life – Local Government Ethical Standards

73 - 88

The Director of Law, Governance and Strategy (Monitoring Officer) had submitted a report to inform the Committee of the progress in implementing the best practice recommendations of the Committee on Standards in Public Life report on Local Government Ethical Standards.

Recommendation(s): That the Standards Committee resolves to:

- **Note** the progress made by the Council listed within the report.

10 Dispensations under Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 89 - 92

The Director of Law, Governance and Strategy (Monitoring Officer) had submitted a report to set out the proposal that the Committee approve the general dispensation as set out at section 2 of the report for a period of four years.

Recommendation(s): That the Standards Committee resolves to:

- **Approve**, under Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011, the general dispensations for all elected and co-opted Members of Oxford City Council to remain in force for a period of four years from 1 October 2026 to 30 September 2030.

11 Code of Conduct: summary of complaints and individual dispensations - 1 November 2025 to 28 February 2026 93 - 100

The Director of Law, Governance and Strategy (Monitoring Officer) had submitted a report to advise the Committee of:

- The number and status of complaints received under the Members' Code of Conduct which have been, or are to be, considered by the Director of Law, Governance and Strategy (in her statutory capacity as the authority's Monitoring Officer) in consultation with one of the Council's Independent Persons.
- 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(s): That the Standards Committee resolves to:

- **Note** the updates to the Code of Conduct complaints received by the Monitoring Officer since the previous committee.

12 Member Training Update: March 2026 101 - 106

The Director of Law, Governance and Strategy (Monitoring Officer) had submitted a report to update the Standards Committee on the delivery

of Member training from November 2026 to February 2026.

Recommendation(s): That the Standards Committee resolves to:

- **Note** the updates to the Councillors training since the previous committee.

13 Dates of future meetings

The Committee is scheduled to meet on the following dates:

- 4 June 2026
- 8 October 2026

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.