

Minutes of a meeting of the Standards Committee on Tuesday 11 March 2025

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Committee members present:

Councillor Snowton

Councillor Diggins (Chair)

Councillor Harley

Councillor Robinson

Councillor Hunt (Substitute)

Councillor Ottino (Substitute)

Officers present for all or part of the meeting:

Hannah Carmody-Brown, Committee and Member Services Officer

Jonathan Malton, Committee and Member Services Manager

Emma Griffiths, Deputy Monitoring Officer and Lawyer

Apologies:

Councillor(s) Pressel and Waite sent apologies.

Substitutes are shown above.

20. Election of a Chair

In the absence of Councillor Diggins, Councillor Hunt proposed Councillor Snowton as Chair; Councillor Harley seconded.

The Committee voted Councillor Snowton as Chair.

21. Apologies for Absence

Councillor Pressel sent apologies; Councillor Ottino attended as substitute.

Councillor Waite sent apologies; Councillor Hunt attended as substitute.

22. Declarations of Interest

None.

23. Code of Conduct: Summary of complaints and individual dispensations - 1 November 2024 until 1 March 2025

The Committee and Member Services Manager introduced the report and provided a summary of the contents.

Councillor Diggins joined the meeting and resumed the role of chair.

The Committee had no questions on the report.

The Committee resolved to:

- **Note** the contents of the report.

24. Member Training Update

The Committee and Member Services Manager introduced the report and informed the Committee that since the last meeting in November 2024, there has been a further Code of Conduct training session on the 19 February 2025 with 7 members attending, and a briefing session with the Police and Crime Commissioner on 30 January 2025. In regards future training from May 2025 onwards, the Committee heard of the required training sessions planned and were assured that invitations for Code of Conduct training would also be extended to Parish Councils.

In regards table 1 within the report, the Chair sought to clarify that three members have not attended Code of Conduct trainings since May 2024, and asked what steps are being taken to address this. The Committee and Member Services Manager noted that the identity of these members would not be discussed in public session, but assured the Committee that contact has been made to address any issues limiting their ability to attend, and that further steps will be reviewed with the Monitoring Officer, in line with the constitution.

The Chair queried whether written briefing notes will be offered to complement training sessions in the future. The Committee and Member Services Manager confirmed that a survey of councillors had highlighted a preference for written summaries to be offered alongside training sessions, and that this would be implemented going forwards. The Committee understood that written notes would not be a substitute for training sessions.

The Chair noted that most recent training sessions have taken place in evenings and asked whether this has supported attendance rates. The Committee and Member Services Manager confirmed that evening sessions have proven to be the most suitable

option to most members across a range of examples. The Committee were assured that this would be held in mind when planning future sessions.

The Committee had no further questions on the report.

The Committee resolved to:

- **Note** the contents of the report.

25. Updates from the Monitoring Officer

The Committee and Member Services Manager updated the Committee with information regarding the recruitment process for the appointment of independent persons to the Standards Committee. Members heard that the application process was launched in February 2025, but that no applications have been received thus far. As such, the Committee was informed that the contracts of the incumbent independent persons would be extended whilst recruitment is ongoing, and that a further update would be provided at the next meeting. The Committee were also assured that members would be invited to attend the interview panels.

The Committee acknowledged the update and raised no questions.

26. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Committee resolved to **approve** the minutes of the meetings held on 14 November 2024 and 24 February 2025 as a true and accurate record.

27. Dates of future meetings

The Committee noted the dates of future meetings.

28. Confidential Minutes of the previous meeting

The Committee did not request to discuss the contents of the confidential minutes.

The Committee resolved to **approve** the confidential minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2025 as a true and accurate record.

The meeting started at 6.10 pm and ended at 6.21 pm.

Chair

Date: Thursday 3 July 2025

When decisions take effect:

Cabinet: after the call-in and review period has expired

Planning Committees: after the call-in and review period has expired and the formal decision notice is issued

All other committees: immediately.

Details are in the Council's Constitution.