

**Minutes of the Standards Committee
22 October 2025**

Present:

M. Hull (Vice-Chair)

Councillors:

M.M. Attewell	J. Button	M.J. Lee
C. Bateson	D.L. Geraci	S.C. Mooney
J.R. Boughtflower	K.M. Grant	

In Attendance: Councillors A. Burrell and J. Sexton

14/25 Minutes

Committee **resolved** to agree the minutes of the meeting held 11 June 2025.

15/25 Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

16/25 Chair and Vice-Chair Positions on the Standards Committee

The Council's Monitoring Officer advised the Committee that the previous Independent Chair had resigned and that the current Vice-Chair would be chairing the Committee. A recruitment exercise would be undertaken in the new year to appoint a new Independent Chair.

17/25 Update to Climate Change Working Group Terms of Reference

The Committee considered a report that had previously been brought before the Environment and Sustainability Committee on 18 September and they had resolved to make a recommendation to the Standards Committee.

The Committee **resolved** to make a recommendation to Council to:

1. Approve the change of name of the 'Climate Change Working Group' to the 'Climate and Nature Working Group',

2. Approve the Revised Terms of Reference as outlined in Appendix A of the report; and
3. To adopt the changes into the Council's Constitution.

18/25 Review of the Members Code of Conduct (provisional)

The Committee received an update on the review of the Councillor Code of Conduct.

The Committee **resolved** to acknowledge the update on the review of the Councillor Code of Conduct.

19/25 Changes to Contract Standing Orders

The Committee considered a report that sought a recommendation to be made to Council.

The Committee **resolved** to:

1. Consider the updated Contract Standing Orders; and
2. Recommend that the Council approve the updated Contract Standing Orders as set out in the report.

20/25 Update on Standards Investigation

The Council's Monitoring Officer updated the Committee on the external review relating to the Standards Sub-Committee Hearing on 17 October 2024 that had been completed.

The Committee were asked to consider options in Section 3 of the report and to approve the recommendation in Sections 3.1 and 3.2 of the report.

The Committee considered whether the report should be discussed in an open or private session. A vote was taken as follows:

To go into a closed session – **4 votes**

To remain in an open session – **4 votes**

The Committee were advised that there was a deadlock and that if the balance was equal or tipped toward disclosure the information must be made public therefore the meeting remained in an open session.

Councillor Geraci requested a named vote

The Committee voted on the recommendations in Section 3.1 and 3.2 separately as follows:

Recommendation 3.1 – Determine that the decision made by the Hearing stands, is final, cannot be re-opened and no further action shall be taken –

For	Councillors Attewell, Boughtflower, Lee, Mooney – 4 votes
Against	Councillors Bateson, Button, Geraci, Grant – 4 votes

Recommendation 3.2 – Accept the recommendations set out in paragraphs 124-127 (inclusive) of the report produced by The Investigating Officer –

For	Councillors Attewell, Boughtflower, Lee, Mooney – 4 votes
Against	Councillors Bateson, Button, Geraci, Grant – 4 votes

As both of the above votes resulted in a deadlock situation, the Committee were advised that the recommendations **FELL**.