



Please reply to:

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Date: 26 September 2023

Notice of meeting

Standards Committee

Date: Wednesday, 4 October 2023

Time: 7.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber, Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines-upon-Thames
TW181XB

To the members of the Standards Committee

Councillors:

Dylan Price (Vice-Chair)
M.M. Attewell
C. Bateson
J.R. Boughtflower

J. Button
R. Geach
D. Geraci
K.M. Grant

O. Rybinski
H.R.D. Williams

Substitute Members: Councillors M. Buck, J.T.F. Doran, S.A. Dunn, S. Gyawali and
K. Rutherford

Councillors are reminded that the Gifts and Hospitality Declaration book will be available outside the meeting room for you to record any gifts or hospitality offered to you since the last Committee meeting.

Spelthorne Borough Council, Council Offices, Knowle Green

Staines-upon-Thames TW18 1XB

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Agenda

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1. **Apologies and Substitutes**
To receive any apologies for absence and notification of substitutions.
2. **Disclosures of Interest**
To receive any disclosures of interest from councillors in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct for members.
3. **Minutes** 3 - 4
To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 11 April 2023.
4. **DBS Check update** To Follow
5. **Re-establishment of Committee System Working Group**
Report to follow.
6. **Update on Member Complaints** 5 - 6
7. **Exclusion of Public and Press**
To move the exclusion of the Press/Public for the following item, in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the meaning of Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 and by the Local Government (Access to information) (Variation) Order 2006.
8. **Outcome of Complaint Investigation** 7 - 12

**Minutes of the Standards Committee
11 April 2023**

Present:

I. Winter (Chair)

Councillors:

M.M. Attewell

I.T.E. Harvey

R.W. Sider BEM

J.R. Boughtflower

S.C. Mooney

K.M. Grant

D. Saliagopoulos

Substitutions: Councillors C. Bateson

Apologies: Councillors R.D. Dunn

In Attendance: Councillors M. Beecher and J.R. Sexton

7/23 Disclosures of Interest

There were none.

8/23 Members Complaints Received Since April 2022

The Committee received a verbal update from the Monitoring Officer on the progress of complaints against Councillors submitted in the last 12 months.

The Monitoring Officer was asked to update her report table going forward to include a date when the complaints were passed to the Investigation Officer so they could see where, if any, delays occurred.

The Committee **resolved** to note the progress on Councillor complaints.

9/23 Appointment of Independent Persons 2023-2027

The Committee considered a report from the Monitoring Officer on the appointments of independent persons for 2023-2027.

The Committee were advised that the Council needed to comply with its obligations under Section 28(7) of the Localism Act 2011 that required Councils to seek the view of an Independent Person before it reaches a final decision on any allegation of misconduct by a councillor or dismissal or

disciplinary procedures against the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer or Chief Finance Officer.

The Monitoring Officer advised the Committee that there was a joint appointment arrangement with other Surrey Authorities, including Surrey County Council, and that the vacancy for Independent Persons was advertised on each participating Council's websites and a number were invited for interview.

The following three candidates were recommended for re-appointment:

- a) Vivienne Cameron
- b) Bill Donnelly
- c) John Smith

and that the following two new candidates were recommended for appointment:

- a) Andrea Armstrong
- b) Jane Clarke

The Committee **resolved** to agree the re-appointment of three of the existing Independent Persons and the appointment for the two new Independent Person for a four year term of office expiring in May 2027.

10/23 Exclusion of Public and Press

It was proposed by Councillor Boughtflower and Seconded by Councillor Sider and **resolved** that the public and press be excluded during consideration of the following item in accordance with paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) because it contains personal information of the individuals concerned.

11/23 Update on Investigation Report - Councillor D

The Committee considered a report from the Monitoring Officer concerning the outcome of a Member Complaint against Councillor D.

The Committee **resolved** to note the report.

PROGRESS ON COMPLAINTS SINCE APRIL 2023

Date Complaint received	Date Independent Person Consulted	Date of Standards Assessment Sub-Committee	Current status of complaint	Date complaint concluded and outcome
21/05/22	13/09/22	29/11/22	Closed	Independent Investigator finding of no breach 22/08/23
30/04/23	26/05/23	N/A	Closed	Informal resolution 14/06/23
11/05/23	08/06/23	N/A	Withdrawn	Withdrawn 20/06/23
26/06/23	08/08/23	N/A	Closed	Dismissed – outside jurisdiction. 22/08/23
14/08/23	12/09/23	N/A	Awaiting Independent Person comments.	
15/09/23			Awaiting comments from subject member.	
19/09/23			Awaiting comments from subject member.	

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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