

Contact Officer: Leigh Webb

**KIRKLEES COUNCIL**  
**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**Monday 25 November 2019**

Present: Councillor Paul Davies (Chair)  
Councillor Martyn Bolt  
Councillor Alison Munro  
Councillor Bill Armer  
Councillor Mohan Sokhal

In attendance: Mike Stow – Independent Person

**1 Membership of the Committee**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Homewood. The Chair reported that Councillor Holmes had been replaced by Councillor Armer, with effect from this meeting.

**2 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on the 11 September 2019 be approved as a correct record.

**3 Interests**

It was noted that Councillors Armer, Bolt, Munro and Davies were Members of either a Town or Parish Council.

**4 Admission of the Public**

It was noted that agenda items would be considered in public session.

**5 Deputation/Petitions**

No deputations or petitions were considered.

**6 Public Question Time**

No questions were asked.

**7 Standards Update - Ethical Standards**

Further to Minute 8 of the last meeting of this committee, held on 11 September 2019, a report was submitted setting out the next steps in respect of a review into the standards process.

Following the implementation at Annual Council to review the code of conduct bi-annually, Members of the Committee had further resolved to include the following Committee for Standards In Public Life (CSPL) recommendations as part of the review:

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- Councillors should be presumed to be acting in an official capacity in their public conduct, including social media
- Amendments to the Localism Act to State that a code of conduct applies when a member claims or gives the impression they act as a member
- Council should be required to include in their code of conduct a rule that precludes participation where a member has any interest a member of the public would reasonably consider having regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice a member
- Formal recording of the views of an Independent Person involved in any decision making process.
- There should be a discretionary power to establish decision-making standards Committees with members from parish councils.
- Clarification of whether councillors may be lawfully barred or have facilities withdrawn as a sanction.

Further to the recommendations above being included within the scope of the review, the report set out a number of additional discussion points for potential inclusion.

In considering the role of Parish and Town Councils in the standards process, Members highlighted the distinct role of Parish/Town Council Members. It was suggested that a separate, individually tailored questionnaire could be developed for Parish/Town Councils.

The Monitoring Officer commented on the importance of focussing on relevant community groups and highlighted the role of Members in assisting to target particular Groups. It was requested that any feedback be submitted to herself or Davis Stickey.

With regard to timescales it was reported that the review process would be conducted between December and 21 February 2020, with a report being submitted to his Committee in March 2020 in advance of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee and Annual Council.

### **RESOLVED-**

1. That the scope of the review include the Committee for Standards in Public Life recommendations set out in 2.1.5 of the report, specifically whether they should be voluntarily adopted and, if so, how that can be done.
2. In addition, the review include the discussion points set out at 2.2.1 of the report.
3. That the results of any consultation be submitted to a future meeting of the Standards Committee.
4. That the consultees as set out in 6.2 of the report be agreed subject to the inclusion of individuals who have encountered the current standards process.

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5. That, with the exception of wider members of the public, the method of consultation include targeted requests to the identified consultees referred to in (4) above using a questionnaire format that will encourage open answers.
6. That consultation notices be posted on Kirklees Council's website and social media channels pointing to an on line survey available via Kirklees Council's website and social media channels to encourage members of the public and other council officers to respond.
7. That the contents of the proposed consultation survey, be referred to Members of this Committee to allow for any recommendations with regards to questions.
8. That authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer to draft the survey in accordance with members' views as well as the general arrangements for the review in consultation with the Chair of Standards and to ask the Monitoring Officer to prepare a report setting out the feedback from the review as well as any proposals arising from it for consideration at the next meeting of the Standards Committee.