

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL
STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Wednesday 23rd October 2024

Present: Councillor Bill Armer (Chair)
Councillor Musarrat Khan
Councillor Jo Lawson
Councillor Harry McCarthy
Councillor Alison Munro
Councillor Mohan Sokhal

In attendance: Craig Ainsworth (Independent Person)

Apologies: Councillor Martyn Bolt

1 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Bolt and Mike Stow (Independent Person).

2 Minutes of Previous Meetings

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Committee held on 20 March and 22 May 2024 be approved as a correct record.

3 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

4 Admission of the Public

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

5 Deputation/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

6 Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

7 Code of Conduct Complaints Update

The Committee received a report which provided an update on complaints that had been received since the previous meeting of the Committee in March 2024.

The Committee noted that the report reviewed complaints from the period 1 March to end August 2024, during which there were a total of 38 complaints, 29 of which related to Kirklees Councillors and 5 related to Town or Parish Councillors, with 4 relating to Councillors appointed to both roles. The report advised that, of these complaints, 11 had progressed to investigation and were currently being considered under the initial assessment process.

The Committee were advised that, of the 11 complaints that had been carried forward from the report submitted to the previous meeting, 1 was progressed to the formal standards process and was dismissed at that stage. Paragraph 2.3 of the report set out a comparison of data with that set out in the previous report.

Paragraph 2.4 of the report provided a summary of the published decisions, in cases where complaints had been upheld and published on the Council's website. Appendix A provided a summary of the complaints including total numbers and the source of complaints.

The Committee noted the report and discussion took place with regard to current practices for the retention period for complaint information. It was suggested that consideration be given to an appropriate timeframe for the retention of information and the presentation of information on the Council website.

RESOLVED – That the report be received and noted.

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Cases and News Update

The Committee received a report which provided an update on matters relating to developments and news on Local Government ethics, including decisions of other local authorities, or any existing standards boards.

The report also provided an update on the work of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, in particular that which followed on from the report on 'Ethical Standards in Local Government.' It was noted that the Committee on Standards in Public Life would be carrying out a review of accountability within public bodies and the terms of reference were attached as an appendix to the report.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.