

Contact Officer: Yolande Myers

KIRKLEES COUNCIL
STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Wednesday 12th March 2025

Present: Councillor Bill Armer (Chair)
Councillor Mohan Sokhal
Councillor Martyn Bolt
Councillor Alison Munro
Councillor Musarrat Khan

In attendance: Craig Ainsworth (Independent Person)

Apologies: Councillor Harry McCarthy
Councillor Imran Safdar

1 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Harry McCarthy and Imran Safdar, and Craig Ainsworth, (Independent Person).

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 October 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 deputation 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 October 2024.

The Committee noted that the report reviewed complaints from the period 1st of September 2024 to the end of February 2025, during which there were a total of 22 complaints, 17 of which relation to Kirklees councillors and 4 in relation to Town or Parish Councillors. The report advised that, of these complaints, 1 was not pursued and 10 were not progressed after the initial assessment process. 2 issues were

Standards Committee - 12 March 2025

resolved informally, and the remaining 9 complaints were currently being investigated, being considered currently under the initial assessment process.

The committee noted the report, and a discussion took place with regard to training for new Members when elected. It was noted that the recent Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge identified that the council needed to keep working on Member development programmes and Councillors' behaviours and the Committee was advised that a new Member Development Framework was being developed.

RESOLVED – That the report be received and noted.

8 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 decision 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 Jim McMahon, Minister for Local Government and English Devolution reply to the Chair's letter to Angela Rayner of the 21st of October, making reference to the 2019 report on local government standards, which confirmed that the Deputy PM would be consulting on local standards reforms.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.