



Title of report: Appointment to Standards Panel

Meeting: Audit and Governance Committee

Meeting date: Tuesday 10 June 2025

Report by: Head of Legal Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

(All Wards);

Purpose

To appoint to the membership of the Standards Panel.

Recommendation(s)

In relation to the Standards Panel, the Committee:

- a) **Notes the appointment of the Chair of Audit & Governance as Chair of the Standards Panel;**
- b) **appoints the representative recommended by HALC as the Parish/Town Council appointee;**
- c) **Appoints two further two Councillor members of the Panel as the standing members; and**
- d) **Appoints two substitute Councillors as substitute members.**

Alternative options

1. There are no alternative options as a Standards Panel is a requirement of the Constitution.

Key considerations

2. The Council, under recommendation of the Monitoring Officer and Audit & Governance Committee (A&G), agreed to change the manner that decision making in respect to the Code of Conduct arrangements by officers was visible to members of the Standards Panel.
3. In practice, this means that all Decision Notices issued by the Monitoring Officer in response to a complaint that a member has breached the Code of Conduct will be shared with the Standards Panel. This is the case even if the matter progresses no further than the Initial Assessment stage or if the outcome is no breach or no further action. Previously, a 'dip sample' of decisions was reported to the Standards Panel some months after the decision was made.
4. This change means that the Standards Panel has a greater visibility and understanding of the work involved with the Code of Conduct arrangements, maintain oversight of decision making but also ensures that learning is shared between members.
5. This change requires that the membership of the Standards Panel is fixed so far as possible.
6. The voting members of the Standards Panel is the Chair of A&G and two further members of A&G. Two additional members of A&G are to be appointed as substitutes should any of the three voting members be unavailable.
7. The Standards Panel also includes two non-voting members. This requires the appointment of a parish/town councillor on recommendation of HALC. The final non-voting member of a Standards Panel is the relevant independent person – in practice, in respect to a particular hearing this means one of the two independent persons who were consulted as part of the arrangements.
8. The recommendation requests that A&G makes the necessary appointments to the Standards Panel.

Community impact

9. The Localism Act 2011 requires that a principal authority maintains arrangements through which allegations of breaches of the Code of Conduct can be investigated. The arrangements include allegations made against parish/town and borough councillors. It is for the Council to determine the best way to discharge this requirement.

Environmental Impact

10. This decision has no direct impact on the environment

Equality duty

11. The Public Sector Equality Duty requires the Council to consider how it can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that it is paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.
12. The mandatory equality impact screening checklist has been completed for this project/decision/activity and it has been found to have low impact for equality. The Code of Conduct for Members will ensure that members adhere to the standards needed in respect to equality under the Code and appointment of this Panel will play their part in this.

Legal implications

13. Appointments to the Standards Panel is required under paragraph [2.8.22 to 2.8.27](#) of the Constitution. Paragraphs [3.5.16 to 3.5.22](#) provides further information on the operation of the Standards Panel.

Risk management

14. There are no specific risks

Consultees

15. None.

Appendices

None

Background papers

None

Report Reviewers Used for appraising this report:

Governance	Jen Preece	Date 27/05/2025
Finance	N/A	
Legal	Sean O'Connor	Date 27/05/2025
Communications	N/A	
Equality Duty	N/A	
Procurement	N/A	
Risk	N/A	

Approved by	Approved
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