

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

At a meeting of this Committee held on
14 January 2025

(Present) **Councillor Bowden (Chair)**
Councillors Bond, Collier, Hawley, Laird, McCormack, Pearl and Quinn

(Not Present) **Councillors Bell and Stevenson.**

9 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bell and Stevenson.

10 MINUTES

* **Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2024 be approved and signed.**

11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

No Declarations of Interest from Members were made.

12 MEMBER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

A report was submitted which detailed the training opportunities available to Members and attendance rates from 1 June 2024 to 30 November 2024, and Member training currently planned up to 31 March 2025.

In accordance with the records held by the Organisational Design and Development Team, fourteen briefing/training sessions were delivered during the period of 1 June 2024 to 30 November 2024, these included four Ward Member Grant Scheme Training sessions, one All Members Briefing, two Ketamine Awareness Training sessions, Licensing Training along with a variety of other training sessions. Attendance was 132 members in total across all fourteen training sessions. Attendance and an overview of all sessions was detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

In addition to the briefing events noted in Appendices 1 and 2, members also had access to over 1000 e-resources on the Learning Hub, bitesize learning on the IT Learning Support Hub, and eLearning opportunities on the My Learning and LGA platform.

* **Resolved that the report be noted.**

13 REVISED PROTOCOL FOR COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS DEALING WITH PLANNING MATTERS AND RELATED CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

A report was submitted which informed the committee of proposed revisions to the Protocol for Councillors and Officers Dealing with Planning Matters (known as

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'the Planning Protocol'). The agreed comments of Standards Committee would be considered by Council at its meeting to be held on 15 January 2025, prior to its adoption of an updated Protocol.

The minutes of Planning Committee, following its meeting held on 10 December 2024, were attached at Appendix 2, for information.

- * **Resolved that Council be requested to approve the revised Protocol for Councillors and Officers Dealing with Planning Matters.**

14 **UPDATE ON CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS AGAINST ELECTED MEMBERS**

A verbal report was made by the Monitoring Officer which updated the Committee on complaints received alleging breaches of the Code of Conduct. Council had delegated powers to the Monitoring Officer to consider complaints and determine if they should be the subject of a full investigation in accordance with the agreed Procedure for Dealing with Complaints regarding breach of the Code.

Since the last meeting on 8 July 2024, the Monitoring Officer had received 21 complaints against Members including a Parish Councillor, which had been dealt with under delegated powers. The complaints were submitted from members of the public and Elected Members. Three of the complaints related to the same matter.

Eight complaints were concluded at stage 1 of the Procedure which the Monitoring Officer decided not to investigate in accordance with the examples listed in Appendix 1 of the Procedure. No complaints concluded yet at stage 2 of the Procedure by way of alternative resolution i.e. informal advice, apology etc. There were 12 complaints outstanding which were under consideration.

- * **Resolved that the verbal update be noted.**