

Standards Committee – P1

Other Councils' Standards Committee setup

Cornwall Council

Standards Committee consists of:

8 Elected Members (4 conservatives, 1 Independent, 1 Liberal Democrat, 1 Green)

4 Independent (non-voting)

5 Town/Parish Council representatives (non-voting)

1 Town/Parish Council Clerk

A Sub-Group is convened to assist the MO reach a decision on Sanctions but is referred back to full Standards Committee for consideration/approval.

Contact: standardscommittee@cornwall.gov.uk

Dorset Council

Audit and Governance Committee consists of:

10 Elected Members

Hearings Sub-Committees consist of 3 Elected Members

The Dorset Committee (27 February 2023) agreed that the Committee membership should be extended to include 2 co-opted members. This is subject to approval at full council on 11 May. If approved the new co-opted members should be in place by the late Autumn.

"Dorset Council does not have a separate Standards Committee; hearings relating to the adopted Code of Conduct are undertaken by a Sub-committee of our Audit & Governance Committee (the Assessment Sub-committee and the Hearings Sub-committee). The membership of these Sub-committees is drawn from the membership of the Audit & Governance Committee and although the Council has recently agreed to include co-opted members onto its main Audit & Governance Committee these co-opted members will not be eligible to serve on either of the Sub-committees. I'm not aware of any plans to change this arrangement in the current municipal year."

Wiltshire Council

Standards Committee consists of:

11 Elected Members (with named Substitutes available)

4 Co-opted members (non-voting)

An Assessment Sub-Committee determines if the complaint is valid on advice from the MO

A meeting of the Hearing Sub-Committee on 7 April 2021 had 2 Elected Members and 1 Co-opted Member as the panel.

"Thank you for your email. In accordance with paragraph 2.5.14 of Part 3B of our Constitution a Standards Hearing Sub-Committee "shall comprise 3 elected Members from whom a chairman will be elected. The Sub-Committee may include up to 2 non-voting co-opted Members of the Standards Committee".

"In the case of the 7 April 2021 Sub-Committee there were three elected members and 1 co-opted non-voting member.

“The details of the number of elected members and co-opted members you list is correct.

“We have recently reviewed Part 3 of our constitution at our most recent annual meeting and the membership of sub-committees element was not amended, so I would say at present there are not plans to amend them further this municipal year.

Buckinghamshire Council

Standards & General Purposes Committee consists of:

14 Elected Members (11 Conservatives, 2 Liberal Democrat, 1 Labour)

“We can confirm that you have correctly identified the current membership of the Council’s Standards & General Purposes Committee.

“The Council has not yet chosen to appoint co-opted members to the main Committee nor has it any current plans to do so. It is an interesting question as to whether a co-opted member could serve on a formal hearing sub-committee. I presume that they could but – as with their membership of the main committee – they would have no vote and could not take part in any final decision only the discussion, akin to the Independent Person. If we were ever to consider that, we would want to ensure all participants knew the difference between the role and status of co-opted members and the Independent Person. Some councils have however decided to appoint former independent persons as co-optees of their main committees alongside their current Independent Person.”