

SWT Standards Committee

Tuesday, 26th July, 2022,
6.15 pm

The logo for Somerset West and Taunton, featuring the text "Somerset West and Taunton" in white on a teal background with a white curved graphic element at the bottom right.

The John Meikle Room - The Deane
House

Members: Lee Baker, Hugh Davies, Richard Lees, Mark Lithgow,
Martin Peters, Steven Pugsley, Hazel Prior-Sankey,
Anthony Trollope-Bellew and Terry Venner

Agenda

1. Appointment of Chair

2. Appointment of Vice-Chair

3. Apologies

To receive any apologies for absence

4. Declarations of Interest

To receive and note any declarations of disclosable pecuniary or prejudicial or personal interests in respect of any matters included on the agenda for consideration at this meeting.

(The personal interests of Councillors and Clerks of Somerset County Council, Town or Parish Councils and other Local Authorities will automatically be recorded in the minutes.)

5. Public Participation

The Chair to advise the Committee of any items on which members of the public have requested to speak and advise those members of the public present of the details of the Council's public participation scheme.

For those members of the public who have submitted any questions or statements, please note, a three minute time limit applies to each speaker and you will be asked to speak before Councillors debate the issue.

We are now live webcasting most of our committee meetings and you are welcome to view and listen to the discussion. The link to each webcast will be available on the meeting

webpage, but you can also access them on the [Somerset West and Taunton webcasting website](#).

6. Update on the Committee on Standards in Public Life report and the response from the Government

(Pages 5 - 130)

This matter falls under the responsibility of the Leader of the Council, Cllr F Smith-Roberts.

The purpose of this report is to update Members following the response from the Government made in March 2022 to the report on Local Government Ethical Standards published by the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) in January 2019. Members are asked to note both the report and the response.

7. Somerset wide Code of Conduct

(Pages 131 - 154)

This matter falls under the responsibilities of the Leader of the Council, Cllr F Smith-Roberts.

The report sets out the review of the Council's Members Code of Conduct that has taken place with the benefit of the LGA's Model Code as part of the Local Government Reorganisation work, in collaboration with the Monitoring Officers of the County and District Councils. There are a number of suggested recommendations to Full Council to make including the adoption of the LGA Model Code, with local amendments and that that is incorporated into the Councils Constitution.

8. Somerset wide procedure for dealing with Standards Allegations

(Pages 155 - 186)

This matter falls under the responsibility of the Leader of the Council, Cllr F Smith-Roberts.

The report sets out detail on the review of the Council's arrangements for dealing with Standards Allegations as part of the Local Government Reorganisation work, in collaboration with the Monitoring Officers of the County and District Councils.

9. Town and Parish Councillors Register of Interests - Verbal Update

10. Access to Information - Exclusion of the Press and Public

During discussion of the following item (Agenda Item 12) it may be necessary to pass the following resolution to exclude the press and public having reflected on Article 13 13.02(e)

(a presumption in favour of openness) of the Constitution. This decision may be required because consideration of this matter in public may disclose information falling within one of the descriptions of exempt information in Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. The Committee will need to decide whether, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption, outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Recommend that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the next item of business (Agenda Item 12) on the ground that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 and 2 respectively of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, namely information relating to an individual and that is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

- 11. Monitoring Officer Verbal Update**
- 12. Future Meetings - dates, times and Forward Plan**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Pritchard', with a horizontal line underneath.

**ANDREW PRITCHARD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Please note that this meeting will be recorded. At the start of the meeting the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being recorded and webcast. You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 2018. Data collected during the recording will be retained in accordance with the Council's policy. Therefore unless you are advised otherwise, by entering the Council Chamber and speaking during Public Participation you are consenting to being recorded and to the possible use of the sound recording for access via the website or for training purposes. If you have any queries regarding this please contact the officer as detailed above.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting and listen to the discussions. There is time set aside at the beginning of most meetings to allow the public to ask questions. Speaking under "Public Question Time" is limited to 3 minutes per person in an overall period of 15 minutes. The Committee Administrator will keep a close watch on the time and the Chair will be responsible for ensuring the time permitted does not overrun. The speaker will be allowed to address the Committee once only and will not be allowed to participate further in any debate. Except at meetings of Full Council, where public participation will be restricted to Public Question Time only, if a member of the public wishes to address the Committee on any matter appearing on the agenda, the Chair will normally permit this to occur when that item is reached and before the Councillors begin to debate the item.

If an item on the agenda is contentious, with a large number of people attending the meeting, a representative should be nominated to present the views of a group. These arrangements do not apply to exempt (confidential) items on the agenda where any members of the press or public present will be asked to leave the Committee Room. Full Council, Executive, and Committee agendas, reports and minutes are available on our website: www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

The meeting room, including the Council Chamber at The Deane House are on the first floor and are fully accessible. Lift access to The John Meikle Room, is available from the main ground floor entrance at The Deane House. The Council Chamber at West Somerset House is on the ground floor and is fully accessible via a public entrance door. Toilet facilities, with wheelchair access, are available across both locations. An induction loop operates at both The Deane House and West Somerset House to enhance sound for anyone wearing a hearing aid or using a transmitter. For further information about the meeting, please contact the Governance and Democracy Team via email: governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

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