

Notice of Meeting of

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 19 April 2023 at 10.00 am

Luttrell Room - County Hall

Members of the Committee: Councillor John Bailey (Chair), Councillor Hugh Davies, Councillor Martin Dimery, Councillor Frances Nicholson, Councillor Brian Smedley, Mr Alan Hemsley, Mr Robin Horton, Mr Paul Hooper, Mr David Stripp.

All Somerset Council Members are invited to attend.

For further information about the meeting, including how to join the meeting virtually, please contact Democratic Services, using telephone (01823) 357628 or email: democraticservicesteam@somerset.gov.uk

This meeting will be open to the public and press, subject to the passing of any resolution under the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A: Access to Information.

The meeting will be webcast and an audio recording made.

Issued by Scott Wooldridge, Monitoring Officer on Tuesday, 11 April 2023

GUIDANCE FOR PRESS AND PUBLIC

Recording of Meetings

The Council in support of the principles of openness and transparency allows filming, recording and taking photographs at its meetings that are open to the public providing it is done in a non-disruptive manner. No filming or recording will take place when the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting. As a matter of courtesy to the public, anyone wishing to film or record proceedings is asked to provide reasonable notice to the Democratic Services Team on 01823 357628 or democraticservicesteam@somerset.gov.uk so that the Chair of the meeting can inform those present.

The Council meeting will be webcast and an audio recording made.

QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS OR PETITIONS BY THE PUBLIC

All members of the public are welcome to attend our meetings and ask questions or may make a statement or present a petition **by giving advance notice** in writing or by e-mail to the Monitoring Officer at email: democraticservicesteam@somerset.gov.uk by **12noon on Friday, 14 April 2023**.

The maximum time for each speaker is 3 minutes with a maximum time of 20 minutes for all speakers in total. In exceptional circumstances the Chair has discretion at meetings to accept questions, statements or petitions without any prior notice.

Questions, statements or petitions must: -

- (a) relate to a matter for which the Council has a responsibility, or which affects the County,
- (b) not be defamatory, frivolous or offensive,
- (c) not be substantially the same as a question/statement/petition which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the past six months and
- (d) not require the disclosure of confidential or exempt information.

Your safety at public meetings is very important to us and space at this venue may be limited. We therefore encourage the public to join us virtually. Please contact Democratic Services democraticservicesteam@somerset.gov.uk for the on-line link to the meeting.

REPORTS

Agendas, reports and minutes can be accessed via the council's website:

www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers. If you need to access any of the papers in

an alternative format (e.g. large print, audio tape, Braille etc) or in community

languages please contact the report author giving as much notice as possible. It

should be noted that re-formatting or translation of committee reports before the date of a particular meeting cannot be guaranteed.

AGENDA

Standards Committee - 10.00 am Wednesday, 19 April 2023

Public Guidance Notes contained in Agenda Annexe	7 - 8
Click here to join the online meeting	9 - 10

1 Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

2 Minutes from the last meeting - 2 February 2023 (To Follow)

To approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

3 Declarations of Interest (Pages 11 - 12)

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 of Somerset Council, Town or Parish Councils and other Local Authorities will automatically be recorded in the minutes.)

4 **Public Question Time**

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 remotely. The link to each webcast will be available on the meeting webpage, please see details under 'click here to join online meeting' on this agenda.

5 **Officer support for the Standards Committee**

To receive an update from the Monitoring Officer on support arrangements for the Committee.

6 **Update on the work of the Priority Groups** (Pages 13 - 86)

To receive an update on the work of the 3 Priority Groups:

P1 - Adoption of Complaints Process and Media Plan – **reports attached**

P2 - Discussion of the Code of Conduct

P3 - Discussion of the Officer Code of Conduct

7 **Annual review of the work of the Committee**

To review the work of the Standards Committee over the previous 12 months.

8 **Membership of the Committee**

To consider and confirm the process for the appointment of a Deputy Chair and adoption of an additional co-opted member for the Committee.

9 **Action Plan**

To review and confirm the agreed action points.