



Notice of Meeting of

## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, 27 March 2024 at 2.00 pm**

**John Meikle Room, The Deane House, Belvedere  
Road, Taunton TA1 1HE**

To: The members of the Standards Committee

Chair: Councillor John Bailey  
Vice-chair: Councillor Brian Smedley

Councillor Hugh Davies	Councillor Martin Dimery
Councillor Frances Nicholson	Alan Hemsley
Robin Horton	Paul Hooper
David Stripp	

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For further information about the meeting, including how to join the meeting virtually, please contact Democratic Services [democraticservicesteam@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservicesteam@somerset.gov.uk).

All members of the public are welcome to attend our meetings and ask questions or make a statement **by giving advance notice** in writing or by e-mail to the Monitoring Officer at email: [democraticservicesteam@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservicesteam@somerset.gov.uk) by **5pm on Thursday, 21 March 2024**.

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 (the Proper Officer) on Tuesday, 19 March 2024

# **AGENDA**

**Standards Committee - 2.00 pm Wednesday, 27 March 2024**

**Public Guidance Notes contained in Agenda Annexe (Pages 7 - 8)**

**Click here to join the online meeting (Pages 9 - 12)**

## **1 Apologies for Absence**

To receive any apologies for absence.

## **2 Declarations of Interest**

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

(The other registrable interests of Councillors of Somerset Council, arising from membership of City, Town or Parish Councils and other Local Authorities will automatically be recorded in the minutes: [City, Town & Parish Twin Hatters - Somerset Councillors 2023](#) )

## **3 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. The link to each webcast will be available on the meeting webpage, please see details under 'click here to join online meeting'.

**4 Minutes from the Previous Meeting and Action Sheet (Pages 13 - 18)**

To approve the minutes from the previous meeting held on 24 January 2024 and to consider the action sheet.

**5 Annual Report of the Standards Committee (Pages 19 - 24)**

To consider the draft annual report for submission to the Council's Annual General Meeting in May 2024.

**6 Register of Gifts and Hospitality (Pages 25 - 28)**

To receive details of the declarations of gifts and hospitality received during the period August 2023 to February 2024.

**7 Code of Conduct Complaints - Quarterly Update (Pages 29 - 38)**

To receive an update on the number of Code of Conduct complaints received since April 2023.

**8 Working Group Updates (Pages 39 - 46)**

**9 Standards Committee Co-Opted Member recruitment update (Pages 47 - 54)**

To receive the update on the recruitment to the co-opted member vacancy.

**10 Work Programme and Actions (Pages 55 - 56)**

To consider the Committee's Work Programme and to identify any actions arising from the meeting.

## **Exclusion of Press and Public**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Although the main report for this item not confidential, supporting appendices available to Members contain exempt information and are therefore marked confidential – not for publication. At any point if Members wish to discuss information within this appendix then the Council will be asked to agree the following resolution to exclude the press and public:

### **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

To consider passing a resolution having been duly proposed and seconded under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and public from the meeting, on the basis that if they were present during the business to be transacted there would be a likelihood of disclosure of exempt information, within the meaning of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972:

**Reason:** Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).