



Notice of Meeting of

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Monday, 14 October 2024 at 10.00 am

**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	Robin Horton
Paul Hooper	David Stripp
Alan Hemsley	Sally Foster

For further information about the meeting, including how to join the meeting virtually, please contact Democratic Services 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 by **5pm on Tuesday, 8 October 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 Friday, 4 October 2024

AGENDA

Standards Committee - 10.00 am Monday, 14 October 2024

Public Guidance Notes contained in Agenda Annexe (Pages 5 - 6)

Click here to join the online meeting (Pages 7 - 8)

1 Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

2 Minutes from the Previous Meeting (Pages 9 - 14)

To approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

3 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](#))

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

5 Standards Committee - Action Plan

- a) Ongoing Review of complaints against Councillors procedures – by Priority Group 1
- b) To consider whether to include Co-opted Member on the Complaints Hearings – by Priority 1. The Chair will suggest the timescale of this action be reviewed possibly summer 2025
- c) To agree the questionnaire from complainants against Councillors – Priority Group 1
- d) Review Code of Conduct Training and support package for Parish Councils – by Priority Group 2
- e) SALC to be involved with Standards Committee – Scott Wooldridge

6 Code of Conduct Complaints 20242025 – Quarterly Update – Q2 (Pages 15 - 22)

7 Code of Conduct Complaints Questionnaire (Pages 23 - 26)

8 Standards Committee Work Programme (Pages 27 - 28)

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).