

## Standards Committee – Work Programme 2023 – 2024 (allocated 30 August 23)

	Work Item	By Whom	Committee Meeting
1.	Gifts & Hospitality Register and request from Constitution & Governance Committee on value of gifts/hospitality to be declared	P3	25 October 2023
2.	Minutes and Action Plan (standing item)	DS	25 October 2023
3.	Work Programme (standing item)	DS	25 October 2023
4.	<p>Model Code of Conduct Adoption by City, Town &amp; Parish Councils – Results of on-line survey with all City, Town and Parish Councils to ascertain current Code of Conduct</p> <p><b>P2 Comments</b>            We would like to know how many and which cities, towns &amp; parishes have not responded even after the latest prompt?</p> <p>If there is any useful information in any of the responses to the latest prompt (for example, reasons for not adopting, or adapting the Somerset code before adoption) we would like to know what it is?</p>	P2	25 October 2023
5.	Code of Conduct complaints (speed of responding to complaints)	P1	25 October 2023
6.	<p>Review the operation and effectiveness of the Council's Officer Code of Conduct and make recommendations on proposed changes to the Council</p> <p><b>P3 Comments</b>            In relation to <b>Officers Code of Conduct</b>, the Group is aware that suggestions made by the Standards Committee in February/March 2023 for amendments to this Code of Conduct have yet to be considered by recognised Trades Unions. The Group is, therefore, unable to undertake the second task at this time.</p>	P3	25 October 2023
7.	Standards Committee Annual Report to Full Council (28 February 2024)	SC	24 January 2024
8.	Minutes and Action Plan (standing item)	DS	24 January 2024

9.	Work Programme (standing item)	DS	24 January 2024
10.	Gifts and Hospitality Register and to review the Monitoring Officer's maintenance of the Members' and officers' registers of interests and gifts and hospitality	DS	27 March 2024
11.	Media Plan review & costings	P1	27 March 2024
12.	<p>Review the operation and effectiveness of the Members' Code of Conduct and recommend any changes considered necessary to the Council for approval</p> <p><b>P2 Comments</b> Review to begin in the New Year. And is in relation to Members of Somerset Council only.</p> <p>We are interested in any area - eg under the whistleblowing policy - where there have been no complaints. Was this unexpected? If so, then is the necessary information easily available? Are there other barriers? Is there any action to be taken?</p> <p>We are interested in complaints that have gone beyond the initial stage. Can any patterns be discerned which might suggest the wording of the Code might need improving? Is there a training need for members?</p> <p>Has there been any marked change in numbers or types of complaint since vesting day compared with the old County Council. (Need to bear in mind that the old Council had 55 members, and the new one has 110 members, so there is double the opportunity for complaints.)</p> <p><b>Action: all periodically to check SC website to ensure information is readily available.</b></p>	P2	27 March 2024
13.	<p>Keep under review the operation and effectiveness of the Standards Committee and Standards Hearing Sub-Committee arrangements and to recommend any changes considered necessary to the Council for approval</p> <p><b>P2 Comments</b> Review to begin in the New Year. And is in relation to Members of Somerset Council and complaints about Members of CTP</p>	P2	27 March 2024

	<p>To be considered as part of the review</p> <p>The potential or otherwise for non-elected members of the committee to take any part in sub-committee hearings.</p> <p>To be considered now.</p> <p>Whether members of the committee with access to SC Outlook, should keep their diary in the Outlook system (wherever else they also keep it). NB any entry in a calendar can be marked as private and its details will not be visible to anyone else, and any calendar can be set so that the only thing that is visible to others is the word 'busy'. This practice would facilitate the setting of dates for sub-committee hearings as necessary.</p> <p><b>Action: FN to propose the diary question to be considered at the next meeting</b></p>		
14.	Review the Monitoring Officer's arrangements for the investigation of allegations of breaches of the Council's Code of Conduct by Members and co-opted Members and to make recommendations for appropriate changes to the Monitoring Officer	P1	27 March 2024
15.	Committee & Sub-Committee process review	P2	27 March 2024
	<p><b>P2 Comments</b></p> <p>We consider that this is subsumed into items 12 and 13.</p>		
16.	Minutes and Action Plan (standing item)	DS	27 March 2024
17.	Work Programme (standing item)	DS	27 March 2024

## Key

DS – Democratic Services

P1 – Priority Group 1 - Cllr Bailey (Chair), Cllr Smedley, Cllr Nicholson, D Stripp & P Hooper

P2 – Priority Group 2 - Cllr Nicholson (Chair), R Horton & A Hemsley

P3 – Priority Group 3 - Cllr Dimery (Chair), Cllr H Davies & A Hemsley

SC – Standards Committee