

Standards Committee

To: Mrs Bainton (Independent Member, in the Chair)
Councillors Kirk, Horton (Vice-Chair), Hudson and
Crawford (Parish Council Member)

Date: Friday, 14 March 2008

Time: 3.00 pm

Venue: The Guildhall, York

AGENDA

1. Declarations of Interest

At this point, members are asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business on this agenda.

2. Minutes (Pages 3 - 10)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 25 January 2008.

3. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting, members of the public who have registered their wish to speak, regarding an item on the agenda or an issue within the remit of the Standards Committee, may do so. The deadline for registering is **10:00 am on Thursday, 13 March 2008.**

4. Review of Work Plan

To review the work plan for the Standards Committee for the 2007/08 municipal year. The latest version of the work plan is annexed to the minutes of the previous meeting, at page 9 of this agenda.

5. The Annual Report of the Standards Committee (Pages 11 - 14)

This report sets out a review of the work carried out by the Standards Committee of City of York Council during the municipal year 2007/08.

6. Standards Committee - Constitutional Changes (Pages 15 - 24)

This report asks the Standards Committee to recommend to the Council changes to its constitution, in order to meet the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, and reports on progress made in recruiting additional members to the Committee.

7. Any other business which the Chair decides is urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democracy Officer:

Name: Fiona Young

Contact Details:

- Telephone – (01904) 551027
- E-mail – fiona.young@york.gov.uk

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democracy Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports

Contact details are set out above.

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If you would, you will need to:

- register by contacting the Democracy Officer (whose name and contact details can be found on the agenda for the meeting) **no later than 5.00 pm** on the last working day before the meeting;
- ensure that what you want to say speak relates to an item of business on the agenda or an issue which the committee has power to consider (speak to the Democracy Officer for advice on this);
- find out about the rules for public speaking from the Democracy Officer.

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Further information about what's being discussed at this meeting

All the reports which Members will be considering are available for viewing online on the Council's website. Alternatively, copies of individual reports or the full agenda are available from Democratic Services. Contact the Democracy Officer whose name and contact details are given on the agenda for the meeting. **Please note a small charge may be made for full copies of the agenda requested to cover administration costs.**

Access Arrangements

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If you have any further access requirements such as parking close-by or a sign language interpreter then please let us know. Contact the Democracy Officer whose name and contact details are given on the order of business for the meeting.

Every effort will also be made to make information available in another language, either by providing translated information or an interpreter providing sufficient advance notice is given. Telephone York (01904) 551550 for this service.

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Yeteri kadar önceden haber verilmesi koşuluyla, bilgilerin tercümesini hazırlamak ya da bir tercüman bulmak için mümkün olan herşey yapılacaktır. Tel. (01904) 613161.

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کسی بھی دوسری زبان میں معلومات کی دستیابی ترجمہ شدہ معلومات، ترجمان کی شکل میں یقینی بنانے کے لئے ہر ممکن کوشش کی جائے گی، بشرطیکہ اس کے لئے پہلے سے سنا سب اطلاع کی جائے۔ ٹیلی فون (01904) 613161

Holding the Executive to Account

The majority of councillors are not appointed to the Executive (38 out of 47). Any 3 non-Executive councillors can 'call-in' an item of business from a published Executive (or Executive Member Advisory Panel (EMAP)) agenda. The Executive will still discuss the 'called in' business on the published date and will set out its views for consideration by a specially convened Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC). That SMC meeting will then make its recommendations to the next scheduled Executive meeting in the following week, where a final decision on the 'called-in' business will be made.

Scrutiny Committees

The purpose of all scrutiny and ad-hoc scrutiny committees appointed by the Council is to:

- Monitor the performance and effectiveness of services;
- Review existing policies and assist in the development of new ones, as necessary; and
- Monitor best value continuous service improvement plans

Who Gets Agenda and Reports for our Meetings?

- Councillors get copies of all agenda and reports for the committees to which they are appointed by the Council;
- Relevant Council Officers get copies of relevant agenda and reports for the committees which they report to;
- Public libraries get copies of **all** public agenda/reports.

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

MEETING	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
DATE	25 JANUARY 2008
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS BAINTON (INDEPENDENT MEMBER, IN THE CHAIR), HORTON (VICE-CHAIR), HUDSON AND CRAWFORD (PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER)
IN ATTENDANCE	CLLR MELLORS (PARISH COUNCIL SUBSTITUTE MEMBER)
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLOR KIRK

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in the business on the agenda. No interests were declared.

23. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 9 November 2007 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

24. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

25. OUTCOME OF COMPLAINT REGARDING A MEMBER OF NETHER POPPLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Members considered a report which informed them of the outcome of a complaint regarding Councillor John Craven of Nether Poppleton Parish Council.

The complaint involved an allegation that Cllr Craven had failed to declare a prejudicial interest and leave meetings when the Parish Council discussed matters concerning the Poppleton Community Trust (PCT) and had failed to enter his interest in the PCT in the register of members' interests.

The Ethical Standards Officer had found that, since Cllr Craven was a volunteer and not a trustee of the PCT, he was not obliged to register an interest and had no personal, and therefore no prejudicial, interest in

relation to the PCT. Hence, there had been no breach of the Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be noted.

REASON: So that the Standards Committee is kept informed of the outcome of Code of Conduct cases in the City of York area.

26. ETHICAL GOVERNANCE AUDIT

Members considered a report which advised them of further progress made on the Ethical Governance Audit, including the outcome of Stage 2, following the report on Stage 1 submitted to the last meeting.

Stage 2 of the audit was an assessment of the level of awareness of ethical governance issues, by way of a questionnaire completed by Members and Officers. A copy of the final Stage 2 report, published by the Audit Commission in November 2007, was attached as Annex 1. The main conclusions of the survey had been very positive, demonstrating a high level of understanding and compliance with policies and procedures, particularly from Members. However, Officers' responses had been less clear around the codes of conduct.

The audit had concluded that the most significant issues for the Council to address were Equality legislation awareness, Member / Officer culture and Member / Officer relationships. The first issue had been drawn to the attention of the Equalities Officer so that it could be taken into account in future training. Officer and Member workshops were currently being organised to further explore the other issues raised.

Members expressed concern that one councillor had apparently not agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct (page 11 of Annex 1) and that three senior Officers appeared to be unaware of the existence of the Standards Committee (page 28). The Monitoring Officer confirmed that all councillors had in fact signed up to the Code and were bound by it.

RESOLVED: That the outcome of Stage 2 of the Ethical Governance Audit be noted.

REASON: To ensure the maintenance of high standards of ethical conduct in the Council.

27. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007

Members considered a report which informed them of the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 in relation to the ethical framework, and the implications of these for the Standards Committee.

The Act would lead to changed roles for the Standards Board for England (SBE), Standards Committees and Monitoring Officers. The SBE's role would become strategic in nature and only the most sensitive or complex complaints would be handled at national level. Standards Committees and Monitoring Officers would become the hub of the ethical framework, dealing with the receipt of allegations, initial assessment (or 'local filter'), investigation, mediation and local determination, referring serious matters to the SBE where appropriate. The provisions of the Act were set out in more detail in paragraphs 5 to 18 of the report. It was anticipated that the changes would come into effect from 1 April 2008.

The provisions of section 183, 185-195 and 202 of the Act were outlined in paragraphs 5 to 18 of the report. The changes in the Act would mean changes to the composition and terms of reference of the Standards Committee, including the membership. The suggestion to be put to Group Leaders was to increase the membership of York's Standards Committee from six to eleven, with one additional Council member, two more independent members and two more parish council members. Independent members would be selected by public advertisement, followed by an interview. Members expressed the view that the advertising should be done as widely as possible in order to ensure a good response.

RESOLVED: (i) That the contents of the report be noted.

(ii) That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to advertise for up to three independent members of the Standards Committee and to obtain nominations for parish council members, via the Parish Councillors' Association, before the end of March, with a view to making the appointments at full Council in April.¹

REASON: In order to make the essential changes to membership required by the Act.

Action Required

1. Advertise for independent members and approach PCA GR
for parish nominations.

28. CONSULTATION ON ORDERS AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE CONDUCT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS IN ENGLAND

Members considered a report which suggested a response to consultation being carried out by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on arrangements to implement the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act in relation to the ethical framework. A copy of the consultation paper, published on 3 January 2008, was annexed to the report.

The report outlined a suggested response to each of the proposals set out in the consultation paper. In summary, the responses supported the

majority of the proposals but made the following points in relation to specific matters:

- Parallel complaint procedures concerning members of more than one authority – where local agreement cannot be reached, the Standards Board should have a role in deciding how the case is dealt with.
- Provision of a written summary to the subject of an allegation – this should only be delayed in the most extreme of cases.
- Suspension of a Standards Committee's powers to make an initial assessment – this should only be used as a last resort and any fees to be charged in such circumstances should be limited to actual costs incurred.
- Joint working – the size and scope of joint arrangements should be a matter for local negotiation.
- Effective date of implementation of the changes – 1 June 2008 would be a more convenient date than 1 April, as it would enable local authorities to recruit additional members to their standards committees.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be noted and that a response be sent to the DCLG as suggested in paragraphs 4 to 19 of the report.¹

REASON: In order to provide a response from the City of York Standards Committee on the proposed regulations relating to the conduct of Members.

Action Required

1. Send response to DCLG.

GR

29. REVIEW OF WORK PLAN

Members reviewed the latest version of their work plan for the 2007/08 Municipal Year and agreed some amendments. The amended work plan is attached as Annex 1 to these minutes.

30. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DECIDES IS URGENT UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972.

It was reported under urgent business that Rita Leaman, an independent member of the Standards Committee, had written to resign her membership.

RESOLVED: That the Monitoring Officer be asked to write to Ms Leaman on behalf of the Committee, thanking her for her work as an independent member.¹

Action Required

1. Write letter.

GR

C Bainton, Chair

[The meeting started at 3.00 pm and finished at 4.15 pm].

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2007/2008 Workplan for Standards Committee

Ongoing Activities

Cases referred for investigation or determination
 Database of Standards Committee topics
 Standards Board Guidance
 Parish Council Issues
 Member and Officer Training

Programme of New Work

	<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Preparation for Local Determination	14 March 2008	Work still ongoing. Progress report on independent member recruitment to be brought to March meeting.
Annual Report of the Standards Committee	14 March 2008	

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STANDARDS COMMITTEE

14th March 2008

Report of the Interim Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Summary

1. This report sets out a review of the work carried out by the Standards Committee of City of York Council during the municipal year 2007/08.

Background

2. **Meetings** – The Standards Committee has met formally on six occasions during the municipal year 2007/08 namely 8th June 2007, 10th August 2007, 28th September 2007, 9th November 2007, 25th January and 14th March 2008.
3. **Membership** – The Committee currently consists of 5 members – Councillors M Kirk, D Horton and B Hudson, one Parish Councillor representative, Councillor D Crawford (with Councillor B Mellors as substitute who also regularly attends the meetings) and one independent member Mrs C Bainton (Chairman). The other independent member, Mrs R Leaman, resigned from the Committee in January 2008 due to other commitments. The Committee recorded their appreciation for her contribution to the work of the Committee and an exercise is currently taking place to recruit a replacement.
4. **Work Programme** – The Standards Committee has an approved work programme which is reviewed at each meeting, to assess progress. Where necessary the work programme is amended during the course of the year.
5. **The Revised Code of Conduct** – The revised Code of Conduct for Members was considered by the Committee at its June meeting and recommended for adoption by the Council. It was adopted with effect from 1st August 2007. The Code was also adopted by all the Parish Councils in York. The necessary public notices were given and the Standards Board for England advised of the adoption.
6. **Training** – A training session for members on the revised Code of Conduct was given by the Monitoring Officer in October. It was attended by 15 York City Councillors and a significant number of Parish Councillors.
7. **Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007** – This legislation introduces important changes in the role of the Standards Committee. The most significant is the fact that the Standards Committee will

assume responsibility for the assessment of complaints about councillors and deciding whether they should be investigated. It is expected that this new role will take effect on 1st April 2008. The Committee has considered the implications of this role for its structure and organisation. Importantly the Committee will need to expand in size in order to discharge its new functions and set up sub-committees. Constitutional changes are being recommended to Council to enlarge the Committee to 11 members, consisting of 4 councillors, 3 Parish Representatives and 4 independent members. A recruitment exercise is being undertaken to find these additional members.

8. The Act also introduced a requirement that the Chairman of the Standards Committee is an independent member. That is already the situation in York. Consultation is currently taking place on regulations dealing with the detailed operation of the new system. The Standards Committee has made a response to Government on the consultation paper.
9. **6th Annual Assembly of Standards Committees** – The Committee was represented at the Assembly in Birmingham in October by the Chairman, Christine Bainton. The Monitoring Officer was also present.
10. **Ethical Governance Audit** – The Committee received reports at its meetings in November and January on the outcome of the Ethical Governance Audit carried out by the Audit Commission. The first part of the audit assessed the policies and practices of the Council against statutory requirements and best practice in relation to ethical issues. The second part examined the awareness of ethical governance issues amongst members and officers. The Council's arrangements to deliver high standards were found to be satisfactory. Members were found to have a strong level of awareness and understanding of the Code of Conduct and its impact on their behaviour and actions. An action plan has been agreed by the Standards Committee to address issues raised by the audit. Further work is also to be undertaken with officers and members to further explore the issues around member/officer relations identified in the report.
11. **Complaints** – The Monitoring Officer has been notified of one complaint against a member of the City of York Council. However the Standards Board decided it did not disclose a breach of the Code of Conduct and consequently was not referred for investigation. This is a reduction of 4 in the number of complaints over the previous year. In addition there have been investigations into the conduct of two members of Nether Poppleton Parish Council and one member of Upper Poppleton Parish Council by an Ethical Standards Officer. All cases related to alleged failures to declare an interest. In all cases the conclusion was that there had not been a failure to comply with the Code. In another similar case involving a member of Nether Poppleton Parish Council the Standards Board decided not to investigate. All these parish council cases originated from the same complainant.
12. **Dispensations** – The Committee dealt with its first application to grant a dispensation to permit members of Bishopthorpe Parish council to speak and vote on a matter in which they all had a prejudicial interest. All members of the Council were trustees of the village hall and needed the dispensation so

that they could deal with matters relating to the village hall when they would all have an interest. The dispensation was granted for a period of 4 years at the Standards Committee meeting held on 28th September 2007.

Consultation

13. The Standards Committee continues to consult with Parish Councils through their representatives on the Committee.

Options

14. Not applicable

Analysis

15. Not applicable

Corporate Priorities

16. The effectiveness of the standards Committee is a core part of the Council's ethical governance arrangements and as such contributes to improving leadership in the organisation.

Implications

17. There are no specific financial, HR, equalities, crime and disorder, IT, property or other implications arising out of this report. It is a constitutional requirement that the Standards Committee submits an annual report to the Council.

Risk Management

18. There are no known risks associated with this report.

Recommendations

19. The Standards Committee are asked to agree the contents of this report and submit it, with any amendments to the Council for its consideration

Reason:

To fulfil the constitutional requirement for an annual report to Council from the Standards Committee.

Contact Details

Author:

Author's name

Colin Langley
Interim Head of Civic,
Democratic and Legal Services
Chief Executive's Department
Tel No. 551004

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Colin Langley
Interim Head of Civic Democratic and Legal
Services

Report Approved

Date 27th February 2008

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

None

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None



STANDARDS COMMITTEE

14th March 2008

Report of the Interim Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

STANDARDS COMMITTEE – CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to ask the Standards Committee to recommend to the Council changes to its constitution in order that it can meet the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 in relation to the enhanced role of the Committee. It reports the progress made in recruiting additional members to the Committee. It deals with a recommendation of the Ethical Governance Audit in relation to the role of the Committee and proposes a change in the rules relating to allowances when a member is suspended.

Background

2. **Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007** – A report was submitted to the last meeting of the Committee detailing the provisions in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. It is still anticipated that the changes relating to the Committee undertaking the role of carrying out initial assessments of complaints will be brought in to effect on 1st April 2008. Members will recall that a report on the consultation in relation to the proposed regulations was also included on the agenda of the last meeting.
3. **Size of the Committee** – the Committee was advised at its last meeting that in order to carry out the roles of assessing complaints, conducting appeals against assessments it would be necessary to increase the size of the Committee. Following consultation with Group Leaders it is proposed to increase the Committee to 11 members consisting of 4 York Councillors (with the additional member being drawn from the Green Party Group so that all groups are represented on the Committee), 4 Independent Members and 3 Parish Councillor representatives.
4. **Recruitment of Additional Independent Members** – An advertisement has been placed in the local press and on the internet inviting applicants to fill the 3 vacancies for independent members (the 2 new ones and 1 to replace Mrs Leaman). An application form and

information pack have been prepared. At the time of writing this report there have been 10 expressions of interest. The closing date is 12th March and an update will be given at the meeting. Interviews will need to be arranged with the Committee in time to recommend names to Council in April.

5. **The Additional Parish Representatives** – as suggested at the last meeting it is proposed that the current Parish substitute representative, Councillor Mellors, be appointed a full Committee member. A recommendation to this effect is included at the end of this report. In addition the Yorkshire Local Councils Association are conducting a ballot to choose a 3rd representative. The name should be available for the April Council Meeting.
6. **Creation of Sub- Committees** – As mentioned above it will be necessary to authorise the Standards Committee to set up sub-committees from its membership in order to deal with its functions of carrying out assessments, re-assessments and hearings. In order to ensure maximum flexibility it is proposed that these should be panels, consisting of at least 3 members of the Committee, to include at least one City of York councillor, one independent member and, if the matter relates to a Parish Councillor, one Parish representative. The Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chair of the Committee will have authority to convene a panel.
7. **Politically Restricted Posts – Grant and Supervision of Exemptions** – As mentioned in the report to the last meeting of the Committee the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 transfers to the Standards Committee from an Independent Adjudicator responsibility for the granting and supervision of exemptions from the political restrictions attaching to a politically restricted post.
8. **Overview of Complaints Handling and Ombudsman Investigations** – The Ethical Governance Audit, as reported to the Committee in November 2007 recommended that the Standards Committee should be given an oversight role in respect of complaints handling and Ombudsman investigations. These are areas not specifically covered in any committee's terms of reference and are commonly part of the role of a Standards Committee. It is proposed therefore that the opportunity be taken to add these matters to the Committee's terms of reference.
8. **Constitutional Changes** – In order to give effect to the changes referred to in the preceding paragraphs it is necessary to amend Article 8 of the Constitution (The Standards Committee) and the functions of the Standards Committee set out in Part 3 Schedule 2 of the Constitution. The amended parts of the Constitution are attached as Annexes A and B to this report. The Committee is requested to refer them to Council for approval. The changes are indicated by the words in italics.

9. **Members Allowances Scheme – Suspension of Allowances** – At present the Council's Member's Allowances Scheme does not make provision for allowances not to be paid during any period a member is suspended from office by the Adjudication Panel for England or the Standards Committee following a hearing for failure to comply with the Members' Code of Conduct. It is suggested that the Committee make a recommendation to Council to include this provision in its Allowances Scheme.

Consultation

10. The political group leaders have been consulted in relation to the changes to the Standards Committee contained in this report and have indicated their support.

Options

11. The Council must comply with the requirements of the Local Government and Involvement in Health Act 2007. It has a discretion on the size of the Standards Committee as long as it is of sufficient size to discharge its responsibilities. There is also a discretion as to whether or not it expands the role of the Committee to include an oversight of complaints handling and Ombudsman investigations. It is a matter of discretion for the Council as to whether or not it pays members allowances during a period of suspension.

Analysis

12. This report puts forward changes in the constitution of the Standards Committee in order to equip it to meet its enhanced role. The proposals suggested are considered necessary and practical in order to discharge the functions in relation to the assessment of complaints. The suggestions in relation to the Committee's oversight of complaints handling and Ombudsman investigations were recommendations arising from the Ethical governance audit. Although beyond the statutory remit of Standards Committees they are common features of Standards Committees elsewhere. The proposal to suspend the payment of members allowances in the event of a member being suspended from office is provided for in the Local authorities (Members Allowances) Regulations 2003 but needs the Council to agree to its application.

Corporate Priorities

13. Compliance with the Local Government Act 2000 contributes to the corporate priority of improving leadership at all levels.

Implications

14. There are no specific financial, HR equalities, crime and disorder, IT, property or other implications arising out of this report. Legal implications are dealt with in the report.

Risk Management

15. The Council needs to ensure the Standards Committee is prepared to take on its responsibilities under the new legislation as soon as the provisions are implemented. These proposals will enable that to happen.

Recommendations

16. The Committee is asked;
 - a) to agree the contents of this report;
 - b) to agree a date to interview applicants for the role of Independent Member;
 - c) to recommend to Council that Councillor B Mellors (substitute Parish Representative) be made a full member of the Committee along with the further Parish representative to be selected by the Yorkshire Local Councils Association;
 - d) to recommend to Council that it seeks a nomination from the Green Party Group to the Standards Committee;
 - e) to recommend to Council the adoption of the revised Article 8 of the Constitution set out at Annex A;
 - f) to recommend to Council the adoption of the revised functions of the Standards Committee set out at Annex B;
 - g) to recommend to Council that provision be included in the Members' Allowances scheme to withdraw members allowances during the period a member is suspended from office as a result of a finding of the Adjudication Panel for England or the Standards Committee that the member has failed to comply with the Members' Code of Conduct.

Contact Details

Author: Colin Langley Interim Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services.

Colin Langley
Interim Head of Civic Democratic and Legal Services
Chief Executive's
551004

Report Approved

Date 29th February 2008

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

None

Wards Affected

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes:

Annex A – Article 8 of the Constitution

Annex B – Functions of the Standards Committee

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Article 8

The Standards Committee

The Standards Committee

- 1 The Council will establish a Standards Committee composed of:
 - i. *four* Councillors (who may not include the Executive Leader);
 - ii. *four* Independent Members who will have a vote (appointed in accordance with Local Government Act 2000 and its subsidiary regulations) and one of whom will Chair the Committee;
 - iii. *three* Parish Councillors of Parish Councils in the Council's area, who *are* not also City Councillors.

- 2 A Parish Council Member must be present when matters relating to Parish Councils or their Members are being considered.

General Role

- 3 The Standards Committee will:
 - seek to promote and maintain high standard of conduct in the transaction of all Council and Local Council business.
 - assist in the observation of the Members' Code of Conduct (set out in Part 5 of this Constitution)
 - advise on the adoption, revision or monitoring of the Members' Code of Conduct
 - take a general overview on all ethical issues and issues of probity
 - undertake *assessments, appeals against assessments or conduct hearings into complaints received by it directly or into* such matters as are referred to it by and in accordance with the procedural rules of the Standards Board for England
 - submit an Annual Report of the business undertaken by the Committee to Full Council
 - liaise as necessary with the Audit and Governance Committee on any matter that may be of common concern to both, principally in relation to any matter arising in relation to corporate governance,
 - maintain an oversight of complaints handling and Ombudsman investigations

The Standards Committee

The functions of the Standards Committee are:

Delegated authority	Conditions
<p>To perform all functions given to Standards Committees by the Local Government Act 2000 <i>as amended by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007</i> and any regulations made under those Acts, including:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by the Members and co-opted Members of the Council b assisting Members and co-opted Members of the Council to observe the code of conduct adopted by the Council under section 51 of the Act c advising the Council on the adoption or revision of a code of conduct d monitoring the operation of the Council's Code of Conduct e advising, training or arranging to train Members and co-opted Members of the Council on matters relating to the Council's Code of Conduct. f function given by any regulations made under Section 66 of the Act (functions in connection with investigations carried out by the Monitoring Officer) and g the equivalent functions of those referred to above in respect of Local Councils and Local Councillors h <i>the assessment of complaints in relation to Councillors and local Councillors, and conducting appeals against those assessments</i> i consideration of reports from the Standards Board or the Councils Monitoring Officer in relation to complaints about the conduct of Members and <i>the holding of local hearings.</i> j consideration of requests from Members for dispensations regarding the declaration of interests. k consideration of requests from Local Councils and/or Local Councillors for dispensation regarding declarations of interests. l <i>the granting of exemptions from politically</i> 	

restricted posts in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 as amended by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health act 2007.

To provide advice to the Council on issues relating to Member/Officer relations.

Delegated authority	Conditions
<p>To provide advice to the Council on any employee Code of Conduct, including any statutory code issued under Section 82 of the Act.</p>	
<p>To ensure that a local investigation into the alleged misconduct of Members is undertaken when such matters are either referred to the Standards Committee by the Standards Board for England or referred to the monitoring Officer for investigation.</p>	<p>In accordance with the Standards Board for England procedures <i>and any procedure agreed by the Standards Committee.</i></p>
<p>To provide advice to the Council and Local Councils in respect of any issues relating to Member conduct under the current legislation, regulations and the National Code of Conduct for Members .</p>	
<p>To provide advice to the Council and Local Councils of any issues arising out of Member misconduct and report on action which has or ought to be taken by the Council and/or Local Councils.</p>	
<p><i>To establish Panels consisting of at least 3 members of the Standards Committee to conduct an assessment of a complaint or an appeal against an assessment and a local hearing following receipt of a report from the Monitoring Officer or an Ethical Standards Officer.</i></p>	<p><i>Any such Panel shall consist of at least one member of the Council if the City of York, one Independent Member and if the matter relates to a Parish Councillor, one Parish representative. The Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chairman of the Standards Committee shall have authority to convene a Panel.</i></p>