

South Northamptonshire Council

Standards Committee

30 September 2020

Proposed amendments to the Standards Complaints Arrangements, and actions following the Standards Committee meeting of 8 July 2020

Report of the Executive Director: Resources and Monitoring Officer

This report is public

Purpose of report

To propose changes to the Standards Complaints Arrangements so members of the Standards Committee are more involved in reviewing the nature and content of complaints.

To update the Standards Committee on the co-option of Town and Parish Council councillors.

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To approve Appendix 1 - the current Standards Committee Arrangements with proposed amendments.
- 1.2 To note the progress on the co-option of two town / parish council councillors to the two vacant positions on the Committee.

2.0 Standards Complaints Arrangements

- 2.1 At the last meeting of the Standards Committee, members asked the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Standards Committee, to review the Standards Complaints Arrangements so that the Standards Committee was more involved in reviewing the nature and content of complaints.
- 2.2 Appendix 1 sets out the current Standards Committee Arrangements, with proposed amendments in red, that seek to ensure members are more involved and informed.
- 2.3 It is proposed that members are informed at various stages of a standards complaint, of progress and the actions and decisions taken. This would be done by email to individual members. The Standards Committee would then formally review all complaints at regular meetings of the committee.

2.4 Further meetings have been scheduled for 17 December 2020 and 24 March 2021.

3.0 Town / Parish Council Co-options

3.1 The Standards Committee asked the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Standards Committee, to seek to co-opt two town / parish council councillors to the two vacant positions on the Committee.

3.2 Officers have written to the Town and Parish Council Clerks in the district to seek expressions of interest from individual councillors. These will be considered by the Monitoring Officer and the Chairman. The closing date for expressions of interest is 20 September 2020 and any proposed co-options will be recommended to Council on 21 October 2020.

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

4.1 The proposed amendments to the Standards Committee Arrangements are intended to improve Standards Committee members' involvement in reviewing the nature and content of complaints. It is hoped that these along with the scheduled meetings will achieve this goal.

5.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

5.1 Members may wish to further amend the Standards Committee Arrangements and this will be considered at the meeting of the Standards Committee.

6.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

6.1 There are no direct implications arising directly from this report.

Comments checked by:

Denise Taylor, Strategic Business Partner and Deputy S151 Officer

Tel: 01327 322290,

Email: denise.taylor@southnorthants.gov.uk

Legal Implications

6.2 There are no direct implications arising directly from this report. The Standards Complaints Arrangements are as required by the Localism Act 2011.

Comments checked by:

Peter Holt, Assistant Chief Executive and Deputy Monitoring Officer

Tel: 01327 322289,

Email: peter.holt@southnorthants.gov.uk

7.0 Decision Information

Wards Affected

All

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

A well run Council

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
1	Arrangements for dealing with complaints of Councillor Misconduct
Background Papers	
None	
Report Author	Andrew Hunkin, Executive Director: Resources and Monitoring Officer
Contact Information	Tel: 0300 003 0202 Email: andrew.hunkin@southnorthants.gov.uk