



Northumberland County Council

Your ref:

Our ref:

Enquiries to: Lesley Bennett

Email: lesley.bennett@northumberland.gov.uk

Tel direct: (01670) 622613

Date: 2 October 2019

Dear Sir or Madam,

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **STANDARDS COMMITTEE** to be held in
Committee Room 2, County Hall, Morpeth on **THURSDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2019** at **2.00 p.m.**

Yours faithfully,

Daljit Lally
Chief Executive

To the Members of the Standards Committee

Councillors E. Armstrong, S. Dungworth, B. Gallacher, C. Homer, A.H. Murray, L.J. Rickerby,
M. Swinburn and G. Webb,

Parish Councillors R. Greig, A. Tebbutt, and A. Wallace

Mr. J. Jackson, Mrs J. Common,



Daljit Lally, Chief Executive
County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF
T: 0345 600 6400
www.northumberland.gov.uk



PART I

It is expected that the matters included in this part of the agenda will be dealt with in public.

1. MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members: 8 Councillors (4:3:1) (1 Lab place to Ind) and 3 Parish Council representatives (Only one member of the Committee can be a member of the Cabinet).

Quorum - 4

Chair – Mr. J. Jackson.

Vice Chair – E. Armstrong

Conservative	Labour	Bedlington Independents	Liberal Democrats	Independents (Non-grouped)
E. Armstrong	S. Dungworth		L.J. Rickerby	
C. Homer	B. Gallacher			
A.H. Murray	G. Webb			
M. Swinburn				

Three non-voting Parish/Town Council Members.

R. Greig	A. Tebbutt	A. Wallace
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Independent Person - Mrs J. Common

Functions:

- (a) Promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by councillors, town and parish councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives.
- (b) Assisting the councillors, town and parish councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives to observe the Members' Code of Conduct.
- (c) Advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct.
- (d) Monitoring the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct.
- (e) Advising, training or arranging to train councillors, town and parish councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct.

- (f) Granting dispensations to councillors, town and parish councillors, co-opted members, church and parent governor representatives from requirements relating to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct.
- (g) Assessing and reviewing complaints about councillors and conducting determinations' hearings.
- (h) Granting exemptions for politically restricted posts.
- (i) Such other roles as may be given by the Council.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Unless already entered in the Council's Register of Members' interests, members are required to disclose any personal interest, (which includes any disclosable pecuniary interest), they may have in any of the items included on the agenda for the meeting in accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council on 4 July 2012, and are reminded that if they have any personal interests of a prejudicial nature (as defined under paragraph 17 of the Code of Conduct) they must not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must leave the room.

N.B. Any member needing clarification must contact the Legal Services Manager, Liam Henry on Tel: 01670 623324. Please refer to the guidance on disclosures at the rear of this Agenda letter.

4. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the 18 April 2019, as circulated, to be confirmed as a true record, and signed by the Chairman.

5. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

1. Independent Chairman and Person - Appointment

To advise members of the need to undertake a fresh recruitment process in respect of both the Independent Chairman of the Standards Committee and the Independent Person positions and to agree the detail of that process. (Report attached as **Appendix A**)

2. Code of Conduct Complaints – Progress Report

To receive a report on the progress with complaints received by the authority under the new arrangements adopted by the authority for dealing with standards allegations under the Localism Act 2011. (Report attached as **Appendix B**).

6. URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)

To consider such other business as, in the opinion of the Chair, should, by reason of special circumstances, be considered as a matter of urgency.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 16 January 2020, at 2.00 p.m. in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Morpeth.

IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST AT THIS MEETING, PLEASE:

- Declare it and give details of its nature before the matter is discussed or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.
- Complete this sheet and pass it to the Democratic Services Officer.

Name (please print):
Meeting:
Date:
Item to which your interest relates:
Nature of Registerable Personal Interest i.e either disclosable pecuniary interest (as defined by Annex 2 to Code of Conduct or other interest (as defined by Annex 3 to Code of Conduct) (please give details):
Nature of Non-registerable Personal Interest (please give details):
Are you intending to withdraw from the meeting?

1. Registerable Personal Interests – You may have a Registerable Personal Interest if the issue being discussed in the meeting:

- a) relates to any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (as defined by Annex 1 to the Code of Conduct); or
- b) any other interest (as defined by Annex 2 to the Code of Conduct)

The following interests are Disclosable Pecuniary Interests if they are an interest of either you or your spouse or civil partner:

(1) Employment, Office, Companies, Profession or vocation; (2) Sponsorship; (3) Contracts with the Council; (4) Land in the County; (5) Licences in the County; (6) Corporate Tenancies with the Council; or (7) Securities - interests in Companies trading with the Council.

The following are other Registerable Personal Interests:

(1) any body of which you are a member (or in a position of general control or management) to which you are appointed or nominated by the Council; (2) any body which (i) exercises functions of a public nature or (ii) has charitable purposes or (iii) one of whose principal purpose includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member (or in a position of general control or management); or (3) any person from whom you have received within the previous three years a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of more than £50 which is attributable to your position as an elected or co-opted member of the Council.

2. Non-registerable personal interests - You may have a non-registerable personal interest when you attend a meeting of the Council or Cabinet, or one of their committees or sub-committees, and you are, or ought reasonably to be, aware that a decision in relation to an item of business which is to be transacted might reasonably be regarded as affecting your well being or financial position, or the well being or financial position of a person described below to a greater extent than most inhabitants of the area affected by the decision.

The persons referred to above are: (a) a member of your family; (b) any person with whom you have a close association; or (c) in relation to persons described in (a) and (b), their employer, any firm in which they are a partner, or company of which they are a director or shareholder.

3. Non-participation in Council Business

When you attend a meeting of the Council or Cabinet, or one of their committees or sub-committees, and you are aware that the criteria set out below are satisfied in relation to any matter to be considered, or being considered at that meeting, you must : (a) Declare that fact to the meeting; (b) Not participate (or further participate) in any discussion of the matter at the meeting; (c) Not participate in any vote (or further vote) taken on the matter at the meeting; and (d) Leave the room whilst the matter is being discussed.

The criteria for the purposes of the above paragraph are that: (a) You have a registerable or non-registerable personal interest in the matter which is such that a member of the public knowing the relevant facts would reasonably think it so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest; **and either** (b) the matter will affect the financial position of yourself or one of the persons or bodies referred to above or in any of your register entries; **or** (c) the matter concerns a request for any permission, licence, consent or registration sought by yourself or any of the persons referred to above or in any of your register entries.

This guidance is not a complete statement of the rules on declaration of interests which are contained in the Members' Code of Conduct. If in any doubt, please consult the Monitoring Officer or relevant Democratic Services Officer before the meeting.