

# Notice of Standards Committee

Date: Tuesday, 12 January 2021 at 6.00 pm

Venue: Virtual Meeting



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## Membership:

### Chairman:

Cllr S Baron

### Vice Chairman:

Cllr N Brooks

Cllr M Andrews  
Cllr D Borthwick

Cllr A Jones  
Cllr C Rigby

Cllr A M Stribley

## Independent persons:

Mr P Cashmore

Mr I Sibley

Mr J Storey

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All Members of the Standards Committee are summoned to attend this meeting to consider the items of business set out on the agenda below.

The press and public are welcome to view the live stream of this meeting at the following link:

<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MId=4430>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: or email

Press enquiries should be directed to the Press Office: Tel: 01202 454668 or email [press.office@bcpCouncil.gov.uk](mailto:press.office@bcpCouncil.gov.uk)

This notice and all the papers mentioned within it are available at [democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk](https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk)

GRAHAM FARRANT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

4 January 2021

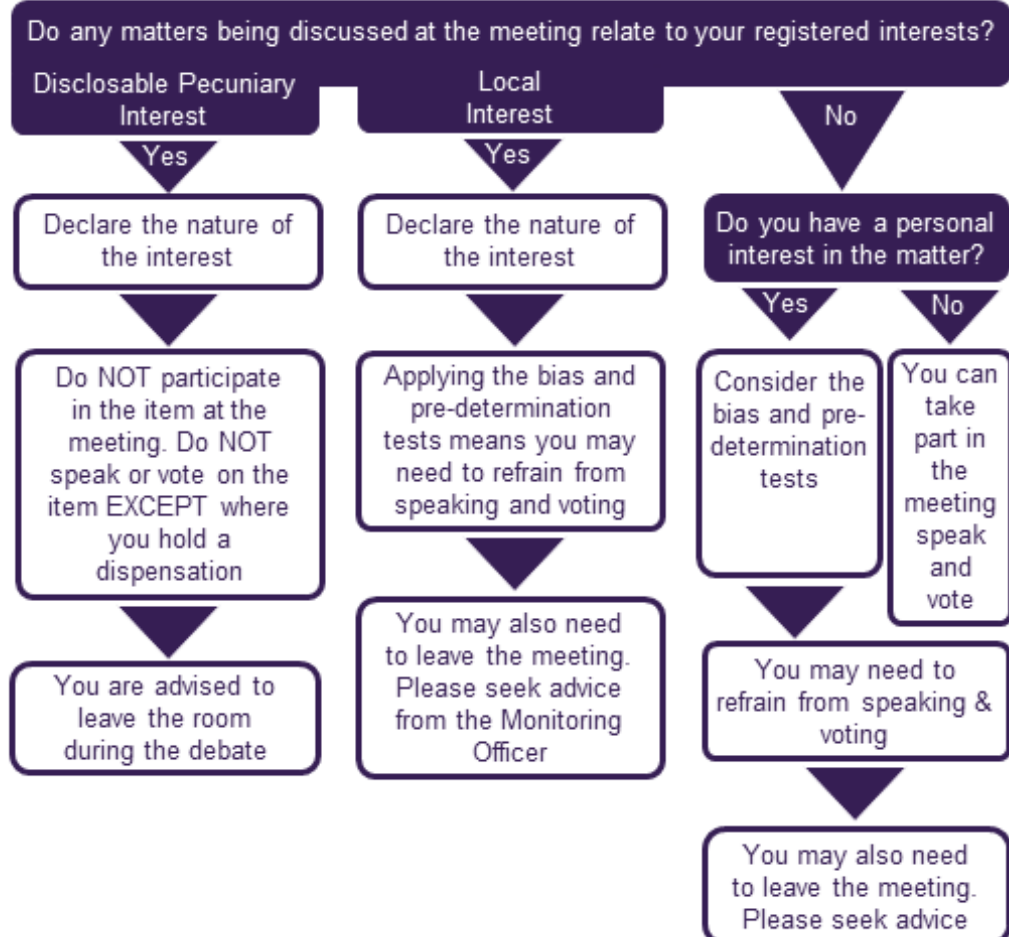


## Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

### Declaring interests at meetings

Familiarise yourself with the Councillor Code of Conduct which can be found in Part 6 of the Council's Constitution.

Before the meeting, read the agenda and reports to see if the matters to be discussed at the meeting concern your interests



What are the principles of bias and pre-determination and how do they affect my participation in the meeting?

Bias and predetermination are common law concepts. If they affect you, your participation in the meeting may call into question the decision arrived at on the item.

#### Bias Test

In all the circumstances, would it lead a fair minded and informed observer to conclude that there was a real possibility or a real danger that the decision maker was biased?

#### Predetermination Test

At the time of making the decision, did the decision maker have a closed mind?

If a councillor appears to be biased or to have predetermined their decision, they must NOT participate in the meeting.

For more information or advice please contact the Monitoring Officer  
([susan.zeiss@bcpcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:susan.zeiss@bcpcouncil.gov.uk))

### Selflessness

Councillors should act solely in terms of the public interest

### Integrity

Councillors must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships

### Objectivity

Councillors must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias

### Accountability

Councillors are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this

### Openness

Councillors should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing

### Honesty & Integrity

Councillors should act with honesty and integrity and should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned

### Leadership

Councillors should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs

# AGENDA

Items to be considered while the meeting is open to the public

## 1. **Apologies**

To receive any apologies for absence from Members.

## 2. **Substitute Members**

To receive information on any changes in the membership of the Committee.

Note – When a member of a Committee is unable to attend a meeting of a Committee or Sub-Committee, the relevant Political Group Leader (or their nominated representative) may, by notice to the Monitoring Officer (or their nominated representative) prior to the meeting, appoint a substitute member from within the same Political Group. The contact details on the front of this agenda should be used for notifications.

## 3. **Declarations of Interests**

Councillors are requested to declare any interests on items included in this agenda. Please refer to the workflow on the preceding page for guidance.

Declarations received will be reported at the meeting.

## 4. **Confirmation of Minutes**

To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting held on 6 October 2020.

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## 5. **Public Issues**

To receive any public questions, statements or petitions submitted in accordance with the Constitution, which is available to view at the following link:-

<https://democracy.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeID=151&Info=1&bcr=1>

The deadline for the submission of public questions is 4 clear working days before the meeting.

The deadline for the submission of a public statement is midday the working day before the meeting.

The deadline for the submission of a petition is 10 working days before the meeting.

## 6. **Review of Register of Gifts and Hospitality**

This report provides details of the Register of Gifts & Hospitality for councillors for the year 2019/20.

The Standards Committee has responsibility for considering an annual report on the register and to make any comments and/or recommendations concerning the register as it considers appropriate.

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<b>7. Code of Conduct Complaints - Review</b>	17 - 22
<p>This report provides Members with an update on complaints regarding alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct against councillors received or concluded since the last meeting in October 2020.</p> <p>The Committee is responsible for maintaining high standards of conduct by Members of BCP Council and the Town and Parish Councils, monitoring the operation of the Code of Conduct, and considering the outcome of commissioned independent investigations.</p>	
<b>8. Consideration of Report in Respect of Complaint about a Councillor</b>	23 - 34
<p>This report provides the Standards Committee with the conclusions of the investigation following complaints made about Councillor Peter Hall. The investigator's report is attached at Appendix 1. The conclusion of the investigator is that there was no evidence to support the allegations and that Councillor Hall was not acting in his capacity as a councillor.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to consider the investigator's report and accept the recommendations.</p>	
<b>9. Local Government Association - Model Councillor Code of Conduct</b>	35 - 56
<p>The Local Government Association has produced a New Model Member Code of Conduct which is appended to this report at Appendix 1.</p> <p>The Standards Committee is responsible for monitoring the Code of Conduct and for making recommendations to Full Council on any changes to the Code.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to note the new Code at this stage but to invite interested parties and other stakeholders to provide comment on the Council's existing Code and the LGA Model Code, in accordance with the best practice recommendations of the Committee for Standards in Public Life.</p>	

No other items of business can be considered unless the Chairman decides the matter is urgent for reasons that must be specified and recorded in the Minutes.