

Notice of Standards Committee

Date: Tuesday, 29 April 2025 at 6.00 pm

Venue: HMS Phoebe, BCP Civic Centre, Bournemouth BH2 6DY



Membership:

Chairman:

Cllr V Ricketts

Vice Chairman:

Cllr A Chapmanlaw

Cllr S Armstrong
Cllr E Connolly

Cllr D Farr
Cllr R Pattinson-West

Cllr B Nanovo

Independent persons:

Mr P Cashmore

Mr I Sibley

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?MIId=6346>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Louise Smith on 01202 128291 on 01202 096660 or email democratic.services@bcpCouncil.gov.uk

Press enquiries should be directed to the Press Office: Tel: 01202 118686 or email press.office@bcpCouncil.gov.uk

This notice and all the papers mentioned within it are available at democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk

GRAHAM FARRANT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

17 April 2025

**DEBATE
NOT HATE**



Available online and
on the Mod.gov app



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
(janie.berry@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 12 February 2025.

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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 midday on Wednesday 23 April 2025 [midday 3 clear working days before the meeting].

The deadline for the submission of a statement is midday on Monday 28 April 2025 [midday the working day before the meeting].

The deadline for the submission of a petition is Friday 11 April 2025 [10 working days before the meeting].

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

6. Dispensations granted by the Monitoring Officer

To retrospectively report the dispensations granted by the Monitoring Officer for the time period 11 January 2025 to 17 April 2025.

11 - 14

7. Code of Conduct Complaints - Review	15 - 26
<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 report to the Committee in February 2025.</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>	
8. Forward Plan	27 - 28
<p>To consider the Standards Committee's forward plan of work and schedule of forthcoming meetings.</p>	
9. Exclusion of Press and Public	
<p>In relation to the items of business appearing below, the Committee is asked to consider the following resolution: -</p> <p>'That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs such interest in disclosing the information.'</p> <p>NOTE: The exemption is in relation to the appendices attached to the public reports for these agenda items.</p>	
10. Consideration of a Report in Respect of Code of Conduct complaints BCP 172, BCP 186, BCP 192 and BCP 195	29 - 158
<p>This report provides the Standards Committee with the conclusions of the investigations following complaints made about a Councillor of BCP Council under references BCP 172, BCP 186, BCP 192 and BCP 195. The Investigator's Reports are attached at Exempt Appendices 1, 2, 3 and 4. The Investigator concludes that in respect of both complaints, there has not been a failure to comply with the Code of Conduct.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to consider this report of the Monitoring Officer and the Investigator's reports.</p>	
11. Consideration of a Report in Respect of Code of Conduct complaint BCP 193	159 - 228
<p>This report provides the Standards Committee with the Conclusion of the investigation following a complaint made about a Councillor of BCP Council under reference BCP 193. The investigator's report is attached at Exempt Appendix 1. The investigator concludes that there has not been a breach of the Code of Conduct.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to consider this report of the Monitoring Officer and the Investigator's report.</p>	

**12. Consideration of a Report in Respect of Code of Conduct complaints
TPC-013 and TPC-014**

229 - 332

This report provides the Standards Committee with the conclusions of the investigations following complaints made about a Councillor of Christchurch Town Council under references TPC-013 and TPC-014. The Investigator's reports are attached at exempt appendices 1 and 2. The Investigator concludes that in respect of both complaints, there has been a failure to comply with the Code of Conduct.

The Committee is asked to consider this report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer and the Investigator's reports and, if supported, determine appropriate remedies.

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.