



STANDARDS COMMITTEE AGENDA

Date: Wednesday, 15 March 2023

Time: 6.30 pm

Venue: Virtual Meeting

You can view the agenda online by using a smart phone camera and scanning the code below:



7 March 2023

PART 1

1. Apologies for absence
2. To receive Disclosures of Interest on any matters before the Committee
3. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting **(Pages 3 - 6)**
4. Retirement of Independent Person and Future Arrangements **(Pages 7 - 10)**
5. Exclusion of the Press and Public

To resolve that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business as there may be disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

PART 2

6. To approve the exempt minutes of the previous meeting **(Pages 11 - 12)**
***(Paragraph 1, 2 - Information relating to any individual.
Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.)***
7. Complaints - Standards Committee Monitoring Report **(Pages 13 - 16)**
***(Paragraph 1, 2 - Information relating to any individual.
Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.)***

MARK TRILLO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND MONITORING OFFICER

Membership of Standards Committee (HPBC)

Councillor R Quinn (Chair)

Councillor T Ashton

Councillor S Gardner

Councillor P Roberts (Vice-Chair)

Councillor S Flower

Councillor E Longden



STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Meeting: Wednesday, 9 November 2022 at 6.30 pm - Virtual Meeting

Present: Councillor R Quinn (Chair)

Councillors T Ashton, S Gardner and P Roberts

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Flower and E Longden

Councillors A McKeown, A Barrow and Mr P. Carnall were also in attendance.

20/9 TO RECEIVE DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST ON ANY MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE
(Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations made.

20/10 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
(Agenda Item 3)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2022 be approved as a correct record, subject to Mr Carnall being included as an attendee.

20/11 DEBATE NOT HATE REPORT
(Agenda Item 4)

Consideration was given to the Debate Not Hate report issued by the Local Government Association under its civility in public life programme. The purpose of the programme was to address intimidation, standards of public and political discourse and behaviour in public office and provide support and advice to councils and councillors.

Councillors discussed the high levels of abuse and intimidation recorded at a national level and the lower levels experienced locally. A number of tools were available to assist councillors which included advice available via the Council's intranet and access to a confidential counselling service.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

20/12 LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN ANNUAL LETTER
(Agenda Item 5)

Discussion took place on the Ombudsman's Annual Letter for the period April 2021 – March 2022. No complaints had been upheld against the Borough Council but two had been upheld against its Alliance partner, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, which related to Revenues and Benefits.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the Ombudsman's Annual Letter, Appendix A to the report, be noted.

20/13 REVIEW OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT
(Agenda Item 6)

The Council's Code of Conduct for councillors was reviewed in line with best practice. It was proposed to revise the code to incorporate an element of the Local Government Association's model code with regards to other interests and deciding when it is appropriate to withdraw from participating in respect of the matter relating to that interest.

RESOLVED:

That Council be recommended to adopt the proposed revised Code of Conduct.

20/14 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC
(Agenda Item 7)

RESOLVED:

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business as there may be disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

20/15 EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
(Agenda Item 8)

RESOLVED:

That the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2022 be approved as a correct record.

20/16 COMPLAINTS - STANDARDS COMMITTEE MONITORING REPORT
(Agenda Item 9)

Consideration was given to Standards complaints received by the Monitoring Officer since the previous Committee meeting.

The meeting concluded at 7.18 pm

CHAIRMAN

This page is intentionally left blank

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL

Standards Committee

15 March 2023

TITLE:	Retirement of Independent Person and Future Arrangements
EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR:	Councillor Alan Barrow – Executive Councillor for Corporate Services and Finance
CONTACT OFFICER:	Linden Vernon – Head of Democratic Services
WARDS INVOLVED:	Not Applicable

1. Reason for the Report

- 1.1 To inform the committee of the retirement of the Council's Independent Person, Mr Peter Matthews, at the end of this municipal year and to recommend proposals for future arrangements.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the retirement of Mr Peter Matthews.
- 2.2 That the Committee recommends to Council that Mr Philip Carnall be appointed as the Authority's primary Independent Person.
- 2.3 That recruitment takes place to appoint a replacement substitute Independent Person who will perform duties across the strategic alliance.

3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 Mr Peter Matthews has notified the Council of his intention to retire from his position as the Council's primary Independent Person from the end of this Municipal year, a role he has held since May 2012. In this role his views have been sought and taken into account with regards to allegations of breaches of the Council's Code of Conduct and he has used his wide-ranging experience to contribute to the wider work of the Standards Committee which has been highly valued.

- 3.2 Following the retirement of Mr Matthews it is proposed that the Committee recommends to Council that it's substitute Independent Person, Mr Philip Carnall, be appointed as its primary Independent Person.
- 3.3 It is also proposed that recruitment takes place to appoint a further substitute Independent Person and that the opportunity is taken to arrange for the duties of this post to be conducted across the strategic alliance to include Staffordshire Moorlands District Council.
4. **How this report links to Corporate Priorities**
- 4.1 Not Applicable.
5. **Alternative Options**
- 5.1 As detailed in section 6 of the report.

Mark Trillo
Executive Director (Governance and Commissioning)

**Web Links and
Background Papers**

None

Contact details

Linden Vernon
Head of Democratic Services
Linden.vernon@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk
01538 395613

6. Detail

- 6.1 Mr Peter Matthews has notified the Council of his intention to retire from his position as the Council's primary Independent Person from the end of this Municipal year, a role he has held since May 2012. Mr Matthews first became an independent member on the Council's Standards Committee in 2007 and subsequently became the Committee Chairman in 2008. This led to him becoming the Borough Council's first Independent Person following the introduction of the Local Government Act 2011. In this role his views have been sought and taken into account with regards to allegations of breaches of the Council's Code of Conduct and he has used his wide-ranging experience to contribute to the wider work of the Standards Committee which has been highly valued.
- 6.2 Mr Matthews entered public life as a Glossop Borough councillor in May 1964 and was elected Mayor of the Borough in 1969. Mr Matthews then served on the newly formed High Peak Borough Council in 1974 for the next three years. Mr Matthews also served as a Magistrate for over 36 years and became the first Chairman of the combined bench when the Buxton High Peak and Glossop benches merged. Upon retirement in 2005 he was the longest serving magistrate in Derbyshire at that point.

- 6.3 In 2016 Mr Matthews was admitted as an Honorary Freeman having been recognised by the Council as being a person of distinction who had rendered eminent service to the Borough.
- 6.4 Following the retirement of Mr Matthews it is proposed that the Committee recommends to Council that its current substitute Independent Person, Mr Philip Carnall, be appointed as its primary Independent Person. Mr Carnall was appointed as a substitute Independent Person by Council on 19 May 2015. Since his appointment he has attended committee meetings and has been involved with the consideration of standards complaints in the absence of Mr Matthews.
- 6.5 It is also proposed that recruitment takes place to appoint a further substitute Independent Person and that the opportunity is taken to arrange for the duties of this post to be conducted across the strategic alliance to include Staffordshire Moorlands District Council.

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank