

Standards Committee



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19th April 2021

A meeting of the **Standards Committee** of North Norfolk District Council will be held remotely via Zoom on **Tuesday, 27 April 2021 at 2.00 pm.**

At the discretion of the Chairman, a short break will be taken after the meeting has been running for approximately one and a half hours

Members of the public who wish to ask a question or speak on an agenda item are requested to arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of the meeting. It will not always be possible to accommodate requests after that time. This is to allow time for the Committee Chair to rearrange the order of items on the agenda for the convenience of members of the public. Further information on the procedure for public speaking can be obtained from Democratic Services, Tel:01263 516047, Email:Matthew.Stembrowicz@north-norfolk.gov.uk.

Anyone attending this meeting may take photographs, film or audio-record the proceedings and report on the meeting. Anyone wishing to do so should inform the Chairman. If you are a member of the public and you wish to speak on an item on the agenda, please be aware that you may be filmed or photographed.

Emma Denny
Democratic Services Manager

To: Mr H Blathwayt, Mr J Rest, Mr A Brown, Dr P Bütikofer, Mr N Dixon, Mrs G Perry-Warnes and Miss L Shires

All other Members of the Council for information.
Members of the Management Team, appropriate Officers, Press and Public



If you have any special requirements in order to attend this meeting, please let us know in advance
If you would like any document in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact us

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A G E N D A

1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

3. MINUTES

1 - 6

To approve as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 18th February 2021.

4. ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

To consider any actions arising from the minutes.

5. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

To determine any items of business which the Chairman decides should be considered as a matter of urgency pursuant to Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

7 - 8

Members are asked at this stage to declare any interests that they may have in any of the following items on the agenda. The Code of Conduct for Members requires that declarations include the nature of the interest and whether it is a pecuniary interest.

7. PARISH AND DISTRICT MEMBERS' REGISTER OF INTERESTS AND OFFICER REGISTER OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY

Members are reminded that the Parish and District Members' Register of Interests and Officer Register of Gifts and Hospitality are available for inspection in the Democratic Services section.

8. ADOPTION OF NEW MODEL MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT

9 - 30

Summary: Following the introduction of a new Model Code of Conduct by the Local Government Association in December 2020, Members are asked to consider whether they wish to continue with the Council's current Code of Conduct, or whether they consider that the template Model Code provided by the LGA would strengthen the code on Member behaviour, and if so, whether it should be adopted as a whole or with amendment.

Options considered:

1. No action – preserve the status quo and continue with the Code of Conduct presently in situ.
2. Adopt the Model Code of Conduct in total
3. Adopt the Model Code of Conduct, with amendment

Conclusions: That Members consider adopting the LGA Model Code of Conduct.

Recommendations: **To recommend to Full Council that the Model Code of Conduct be adopted.**

Reasons for Recommendations: To comply with the Localism Act 2011 and to strengthen and improve the current Code of Conduct requirements presently in place.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS AS REQUIRED BY LAW

(Papers relied on to write the report, which do not contain exempt information and which are not published elsewhere)

The LGA Model Code of Conduct [Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020](#)
local.gov.uk

Cabinet Member(s) All

Ward(s) affected All

Contact Officer, telephone number and email:

Cara Jordan: 01263 516373 cara.jordan@north-norfolk.gov.uk

9. REVIEW OF THE MEMBER / OFFICER PROTOCOL

31 - 52

Summary: The protocol was last reviewed on 11 October 2017 in response to a specific issue and minor amendments were made. It is proposed that a full refresh would be beneficial and that the Protocol could be strengthened to reflect and support the other relevant protocols and codes and to reflect best practice.

Conclusions: It is almost 4 years since the protocol had a 'light touch' refresh and it could benefit from a full review to strengthen certain sections, including 'media relations' and to reflect best practice. The CWP reviewed the draft Protocol on 13th April, with amendments to be shared in advance of the meeting.

Recommendations: **1. That Standards Committee reviews the revised Member / Officer protocol and considers the inclusion of an additional section on expected behaviours in their upcoming review of the Member Code of Conduct.**

2. That, following any further amendments by Standards Committee, Council approves the revised Member /Officer Protocol.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS AS REQUIRED BY LAW

(Papers relied on to write the report, which do not contain exempt information and which are not published elsewhere)

Cabinet Member(s)

Contact Officer, telephone number and email:

Emma Denny, Democratic Services Manager, 01263 516010,
emma.denny@northnorfolk.gov.uk

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (TO INCLUDE AN UPDATE ON RECENT STANDARDS COMPLAINTS)

11. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

To pass the following resolution:

“That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and 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 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to the Act”.