

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Standards and Ethics Committee - 13 March 2025

**Report Title**

Standards and Ethics Committee – The Membership of the Standards and Ethics Committee

**Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?**

No

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

N/A

**Report Author(s)**

Stuart Fletcher, Service Manager (Commercial and Property)  
01709 823523  
stuart.fletcher@rotherham.gov.uk

**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

This report reviews the current membership of the Standards and Ethics Committee and makes recommendations to refresh the membership of the Committee.

**Recommendations**

That the Committee:

- i) Approve that arrangements be made for the nomination of Parish Council members to the Standards and Ethics Committee from the Parish and Town Councils in the Borough.
- ii) Approve for the vacant Independent Member roles on the Standards and Ethics Committee be advertised and recruited to.

**List of Appendices Included**

None

**Background Papers**

None

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

None

**Council Approval Required**

No

## **Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## **Standards and Ethics Committee – The Membership of the Standards and Ethics Committee**

### **1. Background**

1.1 The current Standards and Ethics Committee was established in 2012 following the implementation of the Localism Act 2011. Article 11 of the Council's Constitution makes the following provision for the membership of the Committee:

#### ***11 The Council's Standards Committee Membership***

*(1) The Council's Standards Committee will be composed of –*

- eight Councillors other than the Mayor and Leader;*
- three members of a town or parish councils within the Borough (parish members) to be appointed by the town and parish councils that have delegated their powers under Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011 to the Council; and*
- five persons who are not councillors or officers of the Council (independent members).*

*Independent members*

*(2) Independent members are not entitled to vote at meetings of the Council's Standards Committee.*

*Parish members*

*(3) Town and parish council members are entitled to vote at meetings of the Standards Committees.*

*Chairing the Committee*

*(4) The chair and vice-chair of the Committee shall be borough councillors.*

2.2 The current Parish Council members of the Committee were appointed to the Committee in June 2021 for a period of 4 years. The 4 year terms of office are therefore due to expire shortly. It is therefore timely to invite the Town and Parish Councils in the Borough to nominate fresh representatives. On the previous occasion the Town and Parish Councils selected their nominees by a ballot of all Town and Parish Councillors, but the mechanism for selecting the nominees would be a matter for the Town and Parish Councils.

- 2.3 In respect of the Independent Members of the Committee there are currently two vacancies and therefore, it would be also appropriate to advertise to try to fill these vacancies and renew this type of membership of the Committee.

## **2. Key Issues**

- 2.1 As set out above in Section 2, it is timely for the Committee to invite the Town and Parish Councils to make nominations for their three representatives on the Committee and it is appropriate for the Committee to take steps to fill the vacant roles for Independent Members of the Committee.

## **3. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 3.1 Recommendations are set out above.

## **4. Consultation on proposal**

- 4.1 N/A

## **5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

- 5.1 If the Committees approves the Recommendations within this report the appointments to the Parish and Town Council members and Independent Members of the Standards and Ethics Committee should be made at the June meeting of the Committee.

## **6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications**

- 6.1 The officer time in dealing with these complaints is met within existing Legal Services resources.

## **7. Legal Advice and Implications**

- 7.1 The Council and the Standards and Ethics Committee have a statutory duty to promote and maintain ethical standards. A properly and fully constituted membership for the Standards and Ethics Committee is vital for this function to be undertaken.

## **8. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

None

## **9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

None

## **10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications**

None

## **11. Implications for Partners**

None

**12. Risks and Mitigation**

None

**13. Accountable Officer(s)**

Bal Nahal, Head of Legal Services

*Report Author:* Stuart Fletcher, Service Manager (Commercial and Property)  
01709 823523 - [stuart.fletcher@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:stuart.fletcher@rotherham.gov.uk)

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