

Taunton Deane Standards Committee

Under Section 53 of the Local Government Act 2000, every Council must set up a Standards Committee. The statutory functions of the Standards Committee include promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct for members, giving the Council advice on adopting a Local Code of Conduct, monitoring the effectiveness of the Code and training Members on the Code.



What does the Committee do?

The work of the Committee is set out in its Terms of Reference in the Council's Constitution.

The Standards Committee will have the following roles and functions in relation to the Borough Council and Parish Councils within Taunton Deane:-

- (a) Promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Councillors and co-opted Members;
- (b) Assisting the Councillors and co-opted Members to observe the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (c) Advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (d) Monitoring the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (e) Advising, training or arranging to train Councillors and any co-opted Members on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (f) Granting dispensations to Councillors and any co-opted Members from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct or delegating such power to a sub-committee which will be authorised to determine such dispensations based on principles agreed by the Committee;
- (g) Assessing complaints made against members of the Borough Council and Parish Councils within the Taunton Deane Borough in relation to breaches of the Code of Conduct;

(h) Conducting consideration hearings following receipt of reports from the Monitoring Officer into a Member's alleged misconduct.

(i) Conducting hearings on reports as to alleged contraventions of the Members' Code, and deciding upon appropriate sanctions.

Members' Code of Conduct Complaints Process

As mentioned above, the Standards Committee deals with complaints about the behaviour of Taunton Deane Borough Councillors or Parish Councillors. The Council has a Code of Conduct governing the behaviour of Councillors and can only deal with complaints covered by the Code - a copy of the Code is available on the Standards for England website on the following link:-

<http://www.standardsforengland.gov.uk/Guidance/TheCodeofConduct/Guidance/Guideformembers/>

If you make a complaint to the Committee it must be about why you think a Member has not followed the Code of Conduct.

All complaints alleging that Members have breached their Code of Conduct must be made to the Standards Committee who will decide whether any action should be taken and, if so, what. This means that if you wish to complain that a Taunton Deane Borough Council Member or a Parish Councillor has breached the Council's Code of Conduct you will need to send your complaint to:-

The Standards Committee
c/o Mrs Tonya Meers
Monitoring Officer
Taunton Deane Borough Council
The Deane House
Belvedere Road
Taunton TA1 1HE

Membership

(a) The Standards Committee will be composed of at least:-

(i) One member from each of the political groups who are then represented on the Council [currently there are three such Groups];

(ii) Seven people who are not Councillors or officers of the Council or of any County, District or Unitary Council or of any Parish Council within Taunton Deane (these are referred to as "Independent Members");

(iii) (subject to the same exceptions as (ii) above) three members of a Parish Council from within Taunton Deane who shall represent the interests of all such Parish Councils (the Parish Members);

(iv) Members of the Standards Committee will hold office from one Annual Meeting until the next - at which point their appointments shall be either renewed or terminated at Annual Council.

(b) Independent Members

Independent Members:-

(i) Shall be selected in accordance with the statutory rules prescribed under The Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008;

(ii) Will be entitled to vote at all meetings of the Committee or on any sub-committees to which they have been appointed by the Standards Committee.

(c) Parish Members

A Parish Member must be present at any meeting of the Standards Committee when matters relating to Parish Councils or their members are being considered.

Current membership is as follows:

Chairman:

Mrs A Elder (Anne)

Vice-Chairman:

Mr A W J Cottrell (Alan)

Independent Membership

Mr T R Bowditch (Terry)

Mr R J Macey (Dick)

Mr W L Rogers (Lynn)

Mr M Stanbury (Maurice)

Mr R Symons (Robert)

Member Representatives:

Councillor Mrs J M Allgrove (Jean)

Councillor S Brooks (Steve)

Councillor D House (David)

Parish Representatives:

Mr M Marshall (Mike)

Mr D Wilson (Bryn)

Vacancy

How to contact us

Contact profile for Taunton Deane Standards Committee

Contact type	Contact details
Address:	The Standards Committee c/o Mrs Tonya Meers Monitoring Officer Taunton Deane Borough Council The Deane House Belvedere Road Taunton TA1 1HE