



**North East
Derbyshire**
District Council

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Contact: Torin Fuller - Governance Officer
Tel: 01246 217375
Email: torin.fuller@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk
Date: Thursday, 4 December 2025

To: **Members of the Standards Committee**

Please attend a meeting of the Standards Committee to be held on Wednesday, 10 December 2025, at 2.00 pm in Executive Meeting Room at the District Council Offices, 2013 Mill Lane, Wingerworth, Chesterfield, S42 6NG.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Steenberg".

Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

<u>Members of The Committee</u>	
Councillor K Gillott (Chair) Councillor P Antcliff Councillor P Kerry Councillor K Rouse	Councillor H Wetherall (Vice-Chair) Councillor C Cupit Councillor F Petersen

Any substitutions must be notified to the [Governance Manager](#) in advance by midday the working day before the meeting.

A G E N D A

- 5 **Government Response to Consultation on Strengthening the Standards and Conduct Framework for Local Authorities in England** (Pages 3 - 7)
- 6 **Ethics and Integrity Commission** (Pages 8 - 11)
- 7 **Review of the Constitution** (Pages 12 - 14)
- 8 **Requests for Dispensations** (Pages 15 - 19)

Access for All statement

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- **Visiting** our offices at 2013 Mill Lane, Wingerworth, S42 6NG

North East Derbyshire District Council

Standards Committee

10th December 2025

Government response to the results of the consultation on changes to the ethical framework

Report of the Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

Classification: This report is public

Report By: Sarah Sternberg, Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

Contact Officer: Sarah Sternberg, Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

PURPOSE / SUMMARY

To inform members of the Government response to the recent consultation on changes to the ethical framework in Local Government.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the report be noted.

IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Risk: Yes ☐ No ☒

Details:

Not in relation to the contents of this report.

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes ☐ No ☒

Details:

Not in relation to this report. There will be legal considerations in the future when the Government makes the changes of legislation as outlined in their response.

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Staffing: Yes ☐ No ☒

Details:

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Decision Information	
Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: NEDDC: Revenue - £125,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £310,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
District Wards Significantly Affected	None
Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) details:	
Stage 1 screening undertaken <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed EIA stage 1 to be appended if not required to do a stage 2 	No – this is a report on the response to a consultation exercise by Government.
Stage 2 full assessment undertaken <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed EIA stage 2 needs to be appended to the report 	No, not applicable
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet <input type="checkbox"/> SMT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes Details: Standards Committee

Links to Council Plan priorities;
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A great place that cares for the environment• A great place to live well• A great place to work• A great place to access good public services
All

REPORT DETAILS

1 **Background** *(reasons for bringing the report)*

- 1.1 As Members are aware the Government undertook a consultation on proposed changes to the Standards and ethical framework.
- 1.2 The Government has now reviewed the responses and published its response “Strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England – consultation results and government response.”
- 1.3 The link to this is: [Strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England - GOV.UK](#)

2. **Details of Proposal or Information**

- 2.1 The Ministerial introduction to the response includes a strong emphasis on getting things right for Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation across England. The Government wants to introduce a clearer and consistently applied Standards and Conduct regime for the whole of local government in England. They want to ensure misconduct is dealt with swiftly and fairly whilst ensuring due process and fair opportunity for those Elected Members the subject of complaint.
- 2.2 Victims are to be put at the heart of this framework and be provided with support during the period when the complaint is being dealt with and by providing rights to appeal to both the Elected Member and the complainant. This is likely to be an appeal to an external body.
- 2.3 The paper acknowledges that whilst there are not significant numbers of Elected Members “misbehaving”, where that behaviour includes persistent bullying and harassment causing personal distress to Elected Members and/or Officers, the current regime offers no real prospect of perpetrators being held to account. The Standards regime must provide both appropriate safeguards and sanctions.
- 2.4 There were 2092 respondents to the consultation.
- 2.5 The Government now intends to develop the elements of the proposal, including a mandatory Code of Conduct and a set of guidance

2.6 The Ministerial Statement sets out the main points:

“In summary, we intend to legislate for a whole system reform of the current regime as set out in Localism Act 2011. The measures will include:

- the introduction of a mandatory code of conduct, which will include a behavioural code, for all local authority types and tiers
- a requirement that all principal authorities convene formal standards committees, to include provisions on the constitution of standards committees to ensure objectivity, accountability and transparency
- the requirement that all principal authorities offer individual support during any investigation into code of conduct allegations to both the complainant and the councillor subject to the allegation
- the introduction at the authority level of a ‘right for review’ for both complainant and the subject elected member to have the case reassessed on grounds that will be set out in legislation
- powers for authorities to suspend elected members for a maximum of 6 months for serious code of conduct breaches, with the option to withhold allowances during suspension for the most serious breaches and introduce premises and facilities bans either in addition or as standalone sanctions
- in response to the most serious allegations involving police investigation, or where sentencing is pending, the introduction of powers to suspend elected members on an interim basis for an initial period of 3 months which, if extended, will require regular review
- a new disqualification criterion for any elected member subject to the maximum period of suspension more than once within 5 years
- the creation of a new national appeals function, to consider appeals from elected members to decisions to suspend them and/or withhold allowances, and for complainants if they consider their complaint was mishandled. Any appeal submitted will only be permitted after the complainant or elected member has invoked their ‘right for review’ of the local standards committee decision has been invoked and that process is completed

2.7 In addition the Government is looking at a requirement for there to be an independent Chairs of Standards Committees, the publication of outcomes of investigations and a greater emphasis/ requirement for the promotion of high ethical standards by Standards Committees.

2.8 There is still a lot of detail to be determined in respect of these changes and that includes whether the role of Independent Person is strengthened. As said above, the Government proposes developing this with the relevant stakeholders. However there is no deadline or available Parliamentary time to make these changes to the Framework currently.

3 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 That Members are informed of the outcome of the consultation and the probable changes proposed.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 Not applicable

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
None	
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet you must provide copies of the background papers)	
None	

North East Derbyshire District Council

Standards Committee

10th December 2025

Ethics and Integrity Commission

Report of the Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

Classification: This report is public

Report By: Sarah Sternberg, Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

Contact Officer: Sarah Sternberg, Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

PURPOSE / SUMMARY

To inform Members of the new Ethics and Integrity Commission which replaces the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) formerly known as the Nolan Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To receive the report

IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Risk: Yes ☐ No ☒

Details:

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes ☒ No ☐

Details:

In so far as there are any these are included in the report.

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Staffing: Yes ☐ No ☒

Details:

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Decision Information	
Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: NEDDC: Revenue - £125,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £310,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
District Wards Significantly Affected	None directly
Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) details:	
Stage 1 screening undertaken <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed EIA stage 1 to be appended if not required to do a stage 2 	Not required as report is for information.
Stage 2 full assessment undertaken <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed EIA stage 2 needs to be appended to the report 	No, not applicable
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet <input type="checkbox"/> SMT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes Details: Standards Committee on 10 th December 2025.

Links to Council Plan priorities;

- **A great place that cares for the environment**
- **A great place to live well**
- **A great place to work**
- **A great place to access good public services**

All the above.

REPORT DETAILS

1 Background *(reasons for bringing the report)*

- 1.1 The Ethics and Integrity Commission (EIC) was launched on 13th October 2025. It replaces the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) which has now ceased to exist. The EIC is said to have been formed by strengthening and reforming the CSPL.
- 1.2 The EIC promotes the highest standards in public life, reports to the Prime Minister on matters concerning ethical standards and advises public authorities on the development of clear codes of conduct with effective oversight arrangements.
- 1.3 The EIC is not a regulator and has no remit to investigate individual cases.
- 1.4 The EIC will report annually to the Prime Minister on the health of the standards landscape. The government has committed to responding to the EIC's recommendations within a reasonable timeframe.
- 1.5 The EIC has its own website - [Ethics and Integrity Commission | The Ethics and Integrity Commission promotes the highest standards in public life, reports to the Prime Minister on matters concerning ethical standards, and advises public authorities on the development of clear codes of conduct with effective oversight arrangements.](#)
- 1.6 The Commission exists to safeguards the Seven Principles of Public Life. These outline the ethical standards that all those working in the public sector are expected to adhere to. The principles apply to all public office holders and private and voluntary organisations delivering services paid for by public funds.
- 1.7 The commission's description of what it does includes that it conducts research and thematic inquiries. It collects evidence to assess specific institutions, policies and regulatory mechanisms and report to government if necessary.
- 1.8 The Commission also works to engage and inform the wider public on the values, rules and oversight mechanisms that govern standards in public life.
- 1.9 The Commission has an 18 – 24 month plan for the transition of the Committee on Standards in Public Life into the Ethics and Integrity Commission. This is on their website and includes preparation and evidence gathering for the report to the Prime Minister.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

2.1 This is to inform Members of the change.

3 Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 To keep Members informed.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 Not applicable.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
None	
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet you must provide copies of the background papers)	
None	

North East Derbyshire District Council

Standards Committee

10 December 2025

ANNUAL CONSTITUTION REVIEW

Report of the Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

Classification: This report is public

Report By: Amy Bryan, Governance Manager

Contact Officer: Amy Bryan, Governance Manager

PURPOSE / SUMMARY

Each year the Standards Committee carries out a review of the Constitution and presents an updated version to the Council at the Annual Meeting in May. This report is to commence that process and to propose changes to the Council's Constitution.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Members consider the proposed changes and recommend to Council for inclusion in the Constitution.

IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Risk: Yes ☐ No ☒

Details:

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes ☒ No ☐

Details: As in the report

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Staffing: Yes ☐ No ☒

Details:

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Decision Information	
Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: NEDDC: Revenue - £125,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £310,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
District Wards Significantly Affected	None
Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) details:	
Stage 1 screening undertaken <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed EIA stage 1 to be appended if not required to do a stage 2 	No, not applicable.
Stage 2 full assessment undertaken <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed EIA stage 2 needs to be appended to the report 	No, not applicable
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet <input type="checkbox"/> SMT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes Details: Standards Committee and senior officers.

Links to Council Plan priorities; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A great place that cares for the environment A great place to live well A great place to work A great place to access good public services
A great place to access good public services – this report concerns the governance arrangements for the Council and their annual review.

REPORT DETAILS

1 **Background** *(reasons for bringing the report)*

- 1.1 Each year a review of the Council's Constitution is undertaken by the Standards Committee.
- 1.2 A review of the Constitution in terms of typographical errors, new legislation, change in titles etc. will be carried out by officers.
- 1.3 The items set out in the appendices are proposed amendments to the Constitution or areas for review.
- 1.4 The reviewed Constitution will be presented to Council at the Annual Meeting in May 2026.

2. **Details of Proposal or Information**

- 2.1 The proposed changes and areas to be reviewed of the Constitution are set out in the appendices to this report and are for Members consideration.

3 **Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1 An annual review is good practice and helps to keep the Constitution up to date.

4 **Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 To not review the Constitution was rejected as not being good practice.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	Review of Committee substitutes following implementation in May 2025 (to follow)
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet you must provide copies of the background papers)	
None	

North East Derbyshire District Council

Standards Committee

10th December 2025

Requests for Dispensations

Report of the Assistant Director

Classification: This report is public

Report By: Sarah Sternberg, Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer.

Contact Officer: Sarah Sternberg, Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer.

PURPOSE / SUMMARY

Councillors Gillott, Clegg and Christine Smith have requested dispensations in relation to their Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs) resulting from their membership of the Rykneld Homes Ltd Board. The DPI would prevent the Councillors from taking part in the discussion of the HRA budget at the Council meeting on 26th January 2026.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Members consider the applications received and determine whether a dispensation should be given.

IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Risk: Yes ☐ No ☒

Details:

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes ☒ No ☐

Details:

As in the report.

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Staffing: Yes ☐ No ☒

Details:

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: NEDDC: Revenue - £125,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £310,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
District Wards Significantly Affected	None
Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) details:	
Stage 1 screening undertaken <ul style="list-style-type: none">Completed EIA stage 1 to be appended if not required to do a stage 2	Not applicable as this is an application.
Stage 2 full assessment undertaken <ul style="list-style-type: none">Completed EIA stage 2 needs to be appended to the report	No, not applicable
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet <input type="checkbox"/> SMT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes Details: Standards Committee on 10 th December 2025. Wider consultation not appropriate.

Links to Council Plan priorities;

- **A great place that cares for the environment**
- **A great place to live well**
- **A great place to work**
- **A great place to access good public services**

This is about the ethical framework and compliance with it so indirectly it goes to all the above.

REPORT DETAILS

1 Background *(reasons for bringing the report)*

- 1.1 The functions of the Standards Committee include: Granting dispensations to allow Councillors and co-opted members to take part in meetings where they have a disclosable pecuniary interest.
- 1.2 Three requests have been received for dispensations in relation to DPIs held. All three requests are from Members who are also Directors on the Rykneld Homes Ltd Board. All three Members were appointed to the Board by the Council. All three Members receive a Board Director's payment and therefore have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or DPI which means they cannot participate in the HRA decision. The fourth Member of the Rykneld Board has not requested a dispensation.
- 1.3 At Council on the 26th of January 2026, Members will receive details of the Council's budget for approval. This will include the HRA which is mainly delivered by Rykneld Homes Ltd (Rykneld). The DPI means that in accordance with the law and Constitutional requirements the Board Members should leave the Chamber before the debate and vote takes place.
- 1.4 One of the grounds for granting a dispensation is:

That, without the dispensation, the representation of different political groups on the body transacting the business would be so upset as to alter the likely outcome of any vote on the matter.

This is the situation in relation to the consideration of the HRA.

The political balance is as follows if all Members are present:

Labour 27
Conservative 16
NE Derbyshire Independents 6
Independents 3
Reform 1

With the Combined Opposition being 26

If 4 Board Members declare their DPIs and leave the numbers would be:

Labour 24
Conservative 15
NE Derbyshire Independents 6
Independents 3
Reform 1

With the Combined Opposition being 25

- 1.5 The requests from the three Councillors for the dispensations are included at Appendix 1.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 It is for Members to decide on the basis of the information before them whether or not to grant these dispensations.
- 2.2 If granted, I will write to confirm and request that each of the three Members makes the position clear at the Council meeting when declarations are requested.

3 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 The request for dispensations has been received and needs determining.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 The Standards Committee must decide whether to grant the dispensations as requested.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	The three applications for dispensations
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet you must provide copies of the background papers)	
None	

Appendix 1

Councillor Kevin Gillott

Request for dispensation

Further to our recent conversation, I would wish to request that the Standard's Committee once again grant me a dispensation in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 for an item that is likely to be considered and voted upon at the 26th January 2026 meeting of full council. There reasons for this request are:

Nature of interest

I have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, as declared in my register of interests, due to my membership of the Rykneld Homes Board. I gain no personal benefit from the decision to be taken by council

Meeting at which the decision will be taken

The full council meeting scheduled for 26th January 2026 and in every January for the rest of this municipality term.

Decision being taken at the full council meeting

Discussion and vote on the HRA budget and the rent increase for council owned properties.

Length of time period requested

To avoid the need to have to apply every year I would ask that on this occasion the dispensation lasts until 1st May 2028 or until I cease to be a Member of the Rykneld Board, whichever is the earlier.

Grounds for the request

All four council appointed members of the Rykneld Board are appointed to represent the council and three of those four members are from the council's majority group. If those three members were prohibited from participating in the full council HRA budget setting agenda item, given the current political balance of the council, the effect would be so great as to affect the outcome of any vote (S33(2)(b) Localism Act 2011).

Councillor Kathy Clegg

Councillor Christine Smith

As a member of Rykneld Board, I am emailing to ask for a Dispensation to apply to myself for the Council Budget meeting on 26/1/26.

Also I'd like this to continue until the end of this term of office