

North East Derbyshire District Council

Standards Committee

25 February 2026

Standards Sub-Committee

Report of the Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

Classification: This report is public

Report By: **Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer**

Contact Officer: **Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer**

PURPOSE / SUMMARY

To seek approval to establish a Standards Sub-Committee to consider and determine allegations that a Member has breached the Code of Conduct.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That a Standards Sub-Committee be established.
2. That the hearing procedure, to be followed by the Standards Sub-Committee when conducting a hearing, be approved.

IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Risk: Yes No

Details:

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes No

Details: The Council is required under the Localism Act 2011 to adopt arrangements for investigate and determining allegations that Members have failed to comply with the Authority's Code of Conduct.

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Staffing: Yes No

Details:

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Decision Information	
<p>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:</p> <p>NEDDC: Revenue - £125,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £310,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i></p>	No
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</p>	No
District Wards Significantly Affected	None directly
Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) details:	
<p>Stage 1 screening undertaken</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed EIA stage 1 to be appended if not required to do a stage 2 	No, not applicable.
<p>Stage 2 full assessment undertaken</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed EIA stage 2 needs to be appended to the report 	No, not applicable
<p>Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet <input type="checkbox"/> SMT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Details: Standards Committee.</p>

<p>Links to Council Plan priorities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A great place to access good public services

REPORT DETAILS

- Background** (reasons for bringing the report)

1.1 Details of how complaints are dealt with are set out in the existing Councillor Complaints Procedure. This new Standards Sub-Committee and Hearing Procedure has been drafted to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Sub-Committee and supporting officers and to provide further details on the procedure to be followed.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

2.1 The draft Standards Sub-Committee and Hearing Procedure is attached at Appendix 1.

2.2 A Standards Sub-Committee is required should the Monitoring Officer review an Investigating Officer's report and then decide to send the matter for a local hearing before a Sub-Committee.

2.3 The Sub-Committee will only meet as and when required to conduct a hearing.

2.4 The Standards Sub-Committee will comprise three members of the Standards Committee. Where possible the Sub-Committee will contain members from more than one political group, depending on the political balance of the Council as a whole.

2.5 One of the Independent Persons will also be on the Sub-Committee, and their views will be sought and taken into consideration before any decision is taken.

2.6 In certain more serious or sensitive cases, the Monitoring officer may refer the case to the full Standards Committee rather than the Sub-Committee. The criteria for determining whether to refer the case to the full Committee are set out in Appendix 2 to the Councillor Complaints Procedure and such a decision shall be at the sole discretion of the Monitoring Officer based on those criteria.

3 Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 To establish a formal process for the Council to conduct hearings concerning alleged breaches of the Member Code of Conduct.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 Not to establish a Sub-Committee or agree a procedure. This does not align with legislation or best practice and was therefore rejected.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	Standards Sub-Committee and Hearing Procedure

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)

Councillor Complaints Procedure