

THE ROLE AND PURPOSE OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the role and purpose of the Standards Committee under legislation and its terms of reference in the Council's Constitution. At the first meeting of the Committee it is useful to consider the role and purpose of the Committee to assist in planning the Committee Work Programme for the municipal year.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

3. Statutory Background to the Standards Function

- 3.1 The Localism Act 2011 sets out three main duties for the Council in relation to standards.

- (a) The Council must promote and maintain high standards of conduct of Councillors and co-opted Members of the Council.
- (b) The Council must adopt a Member Code of Conduct that when viewed as a whole is consistent with the seven Nolan Principles.
- (c) The Council must have arrangements in place in which allegations that the Code of Conduct has been breached can be investigated and upon which decisions on allegations can be made.

4. The Council Constitution

- 4.1 Chapter 2 Part 5 of the Council's Constitution set out the Terms of Reference of the Standards Committee. The Terms of Reference expand on the duties as set out in the legislation.
- 4.2 In particular the Terms of Reference set out that the Committee 'assist parish councils within Milton Keynes to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by their members and co-opted members.'

4.3 It is considered that training on the Code of Conduct for Borough and Parish Councillors is one main ways in which the Council is fulfilling its duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct.

5. **Conclusion**

5.1 The Committee is recommended to note the statutory background and terms of reference in the Council Constitution as it considers its priorities for the year ahead and sets out the Work Programme for the Committee.

Background Papers:

Localism Act 2011:

<https://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-12/localism.html>

Milton Keynes Council Constitution:

[Constitution](#)