



Committee and date
Council
03 July 2012
4 pm

Item
5
Public

APPOINTMENT OF STANDARDS SUB COMMITTEE

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1. Summary

The Localism Act 2012 received royal assent on 15 November 2011 and affects the Standards Regime throughout all levels of Local Government in England.

Shropshire Council agreed, at its meeting held on 23 February 2012, to delegate to the Standards Committee such of its powers as can be delegated to take actions in respect of members of Shropshire Council who have been found to have failed to comply with the code of conduct.

Certain powers in relation to the granting of dispensations to members of Shropshire Council were also delegated to the Standards Committee.

2. Recommendations

- a. That the Standards Committee set up a Standards Sub Committee to consist of three members of the Standards Committee to be appointed on an ad hoc basis as the need arises.
- b. That the Standards Committee delegate to the Standards Sub Committee such of its powers as can be delegated to take decisions in respect of a member of Shropshire Council who is found to have failed to comply with the Code of Conduct, such actions to include –
 - Reporting its findings to Council for information;
 - Recommending to the member's Group Leader (or in the case of ungrouped members, recommend to Council or to Committees) that he/she be removed from any or all Committees or Sub-Committees of the Council;
 - Recommending to the Leader of the Council that the member be removed from the Cabinet, or removed from particular Portfolio responsibilities;
 - Instructing the Monitoring Officer to arrange training for the member;
 - Removing from all outside appointments to which he/she has been appointed or nominated by the authority;

- Withdrawing facilities provided to the member by the Council, such as a computer, website and/or email and Internet access; or
 - Excluding the member from the Council's offices or other premises, with the exception of meeting rooms as necessary for attending Council, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings.
 - Censure of the Member with or without a notice being required to be placed in the press.
- c. That the Standards Committee delegate the power to grant dispensations to the Standards Sub Committee and to consider appeals against the decision of the Monitoring Officer in relation to the granting of a dispensation.

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

The Council is required by the Localism Act 2011 to demonstrate the promotion of good ethical governance. Failure to do so will be a breach of the legislation. It has a duty to make arrangements to deal with allegations that members have failed to comply with its code of conduct and can grant dispensations to members, if it considers it appropriate, who may have disclosable pecuniary interests

It provides an opportunity to retain confidence in the ethical governance of the authority and demonstrates a commitment to public accountability for the actions of the members.

4. Financial Implications

No direct implications.

5. Background

1 The Localism Act 2011

The Localism Act 2011 makes fundamental changes to the system of regulation of standards of conduct for elected and co-opted Councillors. The date for implementation of these changes was 01 July 2012.

This report recommends the delegation of functions to a standards sub committee

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information) None
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Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) - Keith Barrow

Local Member - All

Appendices - None

Standards Committee 03 July 2012: Standards Sub Committee

None