

# STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

## COUNCIL

17 FEBRUARY 2022

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Standards Sub-Committee</b>			
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To establish a Standards Sub-Committee as required by Article 7.3 of the Council's Constitution which was agreed by Council on 21 October 2021.			
<b>Decision(s)</b>	<b>The Council RESOLVES to:</b> <b>a) Establish a sub-committee of the Audit Committee to be called the Standards Sub-Committee which will have responsibility to consider allegations under the Code of Conduct in respect of District, Town and Parish Councils, and consider what sanctions, if any, to impose where allegations are found; and</b> <b>b) Appoint the Members of the Standards Sub-Committee, as suggested in paragraphs 2.1 to 2.3 of this report, for the remainder of the Civic Year 2021/2022.</b>			
<b>Consultation and Feedback</b>	Consultations have been carried out with Group Leaders and the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils.			
<b>Report Author</b>	Stephen Taylor, Monitoring Officer Email: <a href="mailto:stephen.taylor@stroud.gov.uk">stephen.taylor@stroud.gov.uk</a>			
<b>Options</b>	It is a requirement of the Constitution that a Standards Sub-Committee be appointed. Code of Conduct complaints which need to go to a hearing cannot be determined until the Sub-Committee is established. Membership of the Sub-Committee is a matter for Council.			
<b>Background Papers</b>	There are none.			
<b>Appendices</b>	There are none.			
<b>Implications (further details at the end of the report)</b>	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	No	No	No	No

## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Article 7.3 of the Council's Constitution requires the Council to establish a sub-committee of the Audit Committee to be called the Standards Sub-Committee which will have responsibility to consider allegations under the Code of Conduct in respect of District, Town and Parish Councils, and consider what sanctions, if any, to impose where allegations are found.
- 1.2 Article 7.4 of the Constitution states that the Standards Sub-Committee will consist of three councillors who are not leaders of political groups, one Independent Person appointed by the Council for that purpose and, where the allegation is against a Town or Parish Councillor, one Town or Parish Councillor within Stroud District.

## **2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE**

- 2.1 It is a matter for Council as to the individuals appointed to serve on the Sub-Committee and this will be reviewed at the next Annual Meeting of Council. It is suggested that, initially at least, the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee and the Chair of the Constitution Working Group be appointed, ex officio, as the three councillors on the Sub-Committee.
- 2.2 As stated above, an Independent Person also needs to be appointed to the Sub-Committee. There are two Independent Persons currently in post; namely, Phyllida Pyper and John Acton. It is suggested that Phyllida Pyper be appointed initially, with John Acton as alternate in the event of Phyllida Pyper being unable to act for whatever reason.
- 2.3 It is also necessary to appoint a town or parish councillor to the Sub-Committee in order that any allegations against a town or parish councillor can be considered. The Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils (GAPTC) have been consulted as they are a representative organisation for town and parish councils in the District even though not all town and parish councils are members.
- 2.4 GAPTC have suggested that Cllr Muriel Bullock, Chair of Eastington Parish Council, be appointed as a well experienced parish councillor. GAPTC have further suggested that if Cllr Bullock is conflicted or otherwise unable to attend the Sub-Committee for any reason, then Cllr Steve Ponting of Rodborough Parish Council be appointed as an alternate member of the Sub-Committee. Group Leaders have been consulted on this and are supportive. Both of the individuals concerned have signified their willingness to serve on the Sub-Committee.

## **3. IMPLICATIONS**

### **3.1 Financial Implications**

An allowance is currently paid to Independent Persons and is included within current budgets.

There is no current allowance for Parish Council representatives, and this can be considered by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

Andrew Cummings, Strategic Director of Resources  
Tel: 01453 754115 Email: [andrew.cummings@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.cummings@stroud.gov.uk)

### **3.2 Legal Implications**

The authority has a statutory duty to promote high standards of conduct by members and to put in place appropriate arrangements to deal with complaints against members.

One Legal  
Tel: 01684 272012 Email: [legalservices@onelegal.org.uk](mailto:legalservices@onelegal.org.uk)

### **3.3 Equality Implications**

An EIA is not required because there are not any specific changes to service delivery proposed within this decision.

### **3.4 Environmental Implications**

There are no significant environmental implications.