

## Meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee

**Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2022 at 5.30pm  
in Committee Room 3, Council House,  
Priory Road, Dudley**

### **Agenda - Public Session**

**(Meeting open to the public and press)**

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To report the appointment of any substitute members serving for this meeting of the Committee.
3. To receive any declarations of interest under the Members' Code of Conduct.
4. Reappointment of the Standards Sub-Committee.
5. To consider any questions from Members to the Chair where two clear days notice has been given to the Monitoring Officer (Council Procedure Rule 11.8).



**Chief Executive**

**Dated: 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2022**

## **Distribution:**

### **Members of the Audit and Standards Committee:**

Councillor A Lees (Chair)

Councillor D Borley (Vice-Chair)

Councillors S Ali, P Atkins, J Cowell, M Evans, E Lawrence, J Martin and A Taylor

## **Please note the following concerning meetings at Dudley Council House:**

### **Health and Safety**

- Windows/doors will be opened to provide adequate ventilation.
- Please ensure you sanitise your hands when arriving and leaving the building. Hand washing facilities are also available on site.
- All persons entering or working in the Council House are encouraged to wear face masks in communal areas and when moving around the building.
- Face masks may be removed when you are participating in the meeting.
- All people attending are encouraged to undertake Lateral Flow Tests twice a week. Anyone testing positive should not attend and should seek further advice.
- Do not attend if you feel unwell: if you have tested positive for Covid-19; if you are self-isolating or if you suspect that you are symptomatic.
- All people are encouraged to be vaccinated to limit any potential ill-health effects.
- Please be respectful of everyone's personal space and preferences when you attend meetings.

### **Toilets**

- Toilet facilities are available on site and are subject to safety measures that are in place. All the toilets have hand washing facilities.

### **No smoking**

- There is no smoking on the Council House premises in line with national legislation. It is an offence to smoke in or on the premises. You cannot use e-cigarettes and/or similar vaping devices.

### **In Case of Emergency**

- In the event of the alarms sounding, please leave the building by the nearest exit. There are Officers who will assist you in the event of this happening, please follow their instructions.

### **Submitting Apologies for Absence**

- Elected Members can submit apologies by contacting Democratic Services (see our contact details below). Members wishing to appoint a substitute should notify Democratic Services as soon as possible in advance of the meeting. Any substitute Members must be eligible to serve on the meeting in question (for example, he/she must have received the training required by the Council).

### **Private and Confidential Information**

- Any agendas containing reports with 'exempt' information should be treated as private and confidential. It is your responsibility to ensure that information containing private and personal data is kept safe and secure at all times. Confidential papers should be handed to Democratic Services for secure disposal. If you choose to retain the documents, you should ensure that the information is securely stored and destroyed within six months.

### **Recording and Reporting**

- The use of mobile devices or electronic facilities is permitted for the purposes of recording/reporting during the public session of the meeting. The use of any such devices must not disrupt the meeting – Please turn off any ringtones or set your devices to silent.

### **General**

- Public Wi-Fi is available in the Council House.
- Information about the Council and our meetings can be viewed on the website [www.dudley.gov.uk](http://www.dudley.gov.uk)

### **If you need advice or assistance**

- If you (or anyone you know) requires assistance to access the venue, or if you have any other queries, please contact Democratic Services - Telephone 01384 815238 or E-mail [Democratic.Services@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:Democratic.Services@dudley.gov.uk)

## **Audit and Standards Committee – 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2022**

### **Report of the Lead for Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer)**

### **Re-appointment of the Standards Sub-Committee**

#### **Purpose of Report**

1. To confirm the re-appointment of the Standards Sub-Committee.

#### **Recommendation**

2. That the re-appointment of the Standards Sub-Committee for 2022/23, with its existing terms of reference, be confirmed.
3. That the Membership of the Sub-Committee comprise the Chair (Councillor A Lees), the Vice-Chair (Councillor D Borley) together with a Labour Member to be nominated at the meeting.

#### **Background**

4. In accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and the Council's Standards Arrangements, this Committee has previously agreed to appoint a Standards Sub-Committee.
5. The purpose of the Standards Sub-Committee is to hear and determine complaints against Members and Co-opted Members under the provisions of the Members' Code of Conduct and in accordance with local procedures.
6. The Sub-Committee comprises three elected members. Political proportionality is waived as to Membership and it is a matter for this Committee to decide the composition and membership.
7. In 2021/22, the Sub-Committee comprised the Chair (Councillor A Taylor), the Vice-Chair (Councillor J Roberts) and Councillor J Cowell.

## **Finance**

8. The cost of holding meetings of the Sub-Committee are met from within existing resources.

## **Law**

9. The relevant provisions are contained in the Localism Act, 2011 together with regulations, orders and statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

## **Risk Management**

10. There are no material risks arising from this proposal in relation to the Council's Risk Management Framework.

## **Equality Impact**

11. The Sub-Committee will hear and determine complaints about alleged breaches of the Local Code of Conduct requiring Members and Co-opted Members to behave in a manner that is consistent with seven overriding principles so as to achieve best value for their residents and maintain public confidence in the Authority. The principles will have a bearing on issues such as equality.

## **Human Resources / Organisational Development**

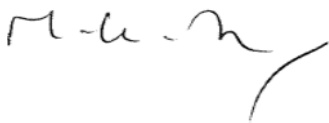
12. There are no direct Human Resources / Organisational Development implications.

## **Commercial / Procurement**

13. There are no commercial or procurement implications.

## **Council Priorities and Projects**

14. The Standards Sub-Committee is part of the Council's governance arrangements in relation to Member Conduct. The Constitution underpins the delivery of key Council priorities including the Borough Vision, Council Plan and Future Council Programme.



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**Mohammed Farooq**  
**Lead for Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer)**

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## **List of Background Papers** [The Council's Constitution](#)