

## Standards Committee Annual Report 2016/17

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### **1. Introduction**

This is the fifth Annual Report of the Standards Committee since it was established by the Council in 2012 under the terms of the new Constitution. While the Council is aware of the Standards Committee's actions through its minutes being presented to the Council, under Article 8 of the constitution, an Annual Report is required to make the Committee's work public.

### **2. Summary of Responsibilities**

The Committee is tasked with promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct within the Council and assisting Members in observing the Code of Conduct and all other elements of the Constitution relating to Members' conduct and the governance of it.

### **3. Membership**

At the start of the year, the membership of the Committee was Councillor Ms. D.A.M. Pitts as Chair, with Councillor Mrs. R. Chatel, Councillor Mrs. C.E. Malarkey, and Councillor Mrs. E.C. Quirk. Mr. Derek Booth was appointed to continue as Independent Member and he is thanked for his valuable contribution, along with all the other Members.

### **4. Review**

There have been four regular meetings of the Committee during the year, continuing, as through the previous four years, to review the operation of the various Procedures and Codes within the Constitution.

The Committee has continued to review procedures in the light of experience gained and to reduce duplication and inconsistency, while setting out clearer, better defined processes for dealing with complaints against Council Members.

When the Committee was first established it was recognised that the introduction of protocols and procedures governing members' conduct would not be straightforward and so it has proved. However the Committee continues to make progress in reviewing and updating procedures, noting the comments of Members in Council and using the experience being gained gradually as time goes on.

## **5. Complaints**

During the last year, no new complaints against Members have had to be considered. That demonstrates that Members are conscious of the need for good standards of conduct and endeavour to follow them. All Council Members are to be complimented on their conduct and encouraged to continue.

## **6. Training**

During the year Members of the Standards Committee have undertaken a number of training exercises which have helped develop their understanding. Members of the Council have asked for the scope of these to be widened so that all Council Members have an opportunity to participate and as promised in the previous annual report, a session was organised on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016 for all Council Members to review the area of Members' interests. While the session was well attended by Councillors, there was little take-up of the invitation to comment on its value.

All Council Members are invited to make suggestions on what training on standards might be useful at any time. Any such suggestions submitted to the Assistant Town Clerk will be taken into consideration in formulating a programme.

## **7. Conclusion**

The Council's Standards Committee continues to fulfil the role allotted to it and to actively encourage the Council's commitment to high standards of conduct, and of the awareness and understanding by Council Members of the relevant Codes and Protocols.

As Chair of the Committee for the past year, I have learned a great deal about the work of the Standards Committee and the principles of governance. The Council leads local government in the Island in appointing this body, which it is not required to do under statute, and that demonstrates the determination of the Council to foster and encourage the highest standards.

I should like to express my gratitude and appreciation to all the Members and Independent Member, Mr Derek Booth, for their support over the past year, and their valuable contributions to the work of the Committee.

The Committee will continue to look at ways in which it, as a Committee, can improve and to develop further the principles of governance which underpin the Council's service delivery.

**COUNCILLOR Ms. D.A.M. PITTS,**

**CHAIR,  
STANDARDS COMMITTEE**