

Standards Committee Annual Report 2017/18

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1. Introduction

This is the sixth 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

From the start of the year, the membership of the Committee was Councillor Mrs. C.E. Malarkey as Chair, with Councillor Mrs. R. Chatel, Mr. Councillor J.E. Skinner, 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 two regular meetings of the Committee during the year, which is fewer than had been held in previous years. However the ongoing process of reviewing Procedures and Codes continued with the revision of the Standards Committee Handbook.

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. However, in the ideal situation, there would be no such

complaints; the committee recognises that and is constantly seeking to identify areas where potential issues can be dealt with by education.

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

The Standards Committee is conscious that training of Members is essential in ensuring observance of the various codes and protocols and is anxious to promote greater understanding by all Council Members of the standards expected. To that end, the Committee's Forward Plan includes the organising of training sessions with Members and is open to any suggestions of topics to be included.

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, and Member for the year previous, 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 the 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 Mrs. C.E. MALARKEY,

**CHAIR,
STANDARDS COMMITTEE**