

**STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE HEARING PROCEDURE**

<b><u>Item No.</u></b>	<b><u>Procedure</u></b>
1	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Quorum</u></b></p> <p>1.1. Three Members must be present throughout the hearing to form a quorum.</p> <p>1.2. Where the complaint refers to a Parish Councillor a non voting Parish member of the Standards committee may be present</p> <p>1.3. The Sub-Committee shall nominate a Chairman for the meeting</p>
2	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Opening</u></b></p> <p>2.1 The Chairman explains the procedure for the hearing and reminds all parties to turn off mobile phones, audible alarms and pagers etc.</p> <p>2.2 The Chairman asks all present to introduce themselves</p> <p>2.3 The Councillor will be asked whether they wish to briefly outline their position</p>
3	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>The Complaint</u></b></p> <p>3.1 The Investigating Officer shall be invited to present their report including any documentary evidence or other material (and to call witnesses as required by the Investigating Officer). This report and documentary evidence must be based on the complaint made to the Council – no new points will be allowed.</p> <p>3.2 The Councillor against whom the complaint has been made (or their representative) may question the Investigating Officer upon the content of their report and any witnesses called by the Investigating Officer. (This is the Councillor's opportunity to ask questions rising from the Investigators report and not to make a statement)</p> <p>3.3 Members of the Sub-Committee may question the</p>

	Investigating Officer upon the content of their report and/or any witnesses called by the Investigating Officer
4	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>The Councillor's case</u></b></p> <p>4.1 The Councillor against whom the complaint has been made (or their representative) may present their case (and call any witnesses as required by the Councillor or their representative)</p> <p>4.2 The Investigating Officer may question the Councillor and/or any witnesses</p> <p>4.3 Members of the Sub-Committee may question the Member and/or any witnesses</p>
5	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Summing Up</u></b></p> <p>5.1 The Investigating Officer may sum up the Complaint</p> <p>5.2 The Member (or their representative) may sum up their case.</p>
6	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Decision</u></b></p> <p>6.1 Members of the Sub-Committee will deliberate in private to consider the complaint in consultation with the Independent Person prior to reaching a decision</p> <p>6.2 Upon the Sub-Committee's return the Chairman will announce the Sub-Committee's decision in the following terms:-</p> <p>6.2.1 The Sub-Committee decides that the Member has failed to follow the Code of Conduct or</p> <p>6.2.2 The Sub-Committee decides that the Member has not failed to follow the Code of Conduct</p> <p>6.2.3 The Sub-Committee will give reasons for their decision</p> <p>6.3 If the Sub-Committee decides that the Member has failed to follow the Code of Conduct the Panel will consider any representations from the Investigator and/or the Member as to:</p> <p>6.3.1 Whether any action should be taken and</p> <p>6.3.2 What form any action should take</p> <p>6.4 The Sub-Committee will then deliberate in private to consider</p>

	<p>what action if any should be taken in consultation with the Independent Person</p>
6.5	<p>On the Sub-Committee's return the Chairman will announce the Sub-Committee's decision (in relation to a Parish Councillor a recommendation to the Parish Council)</p>
6.6	<p>The Sub-Committee will consider whether it should make any recommendations to the Council or in relation to a Parish Councillor to the Parish Council with a view to promoting high standards of conduct among Members</p>
6.7	<p>The Chairman will confirm that a full written decision shall be issued within 7 working days following the hearing and that the Sub-Committee's findings to be published.</p>