

# Standards Committee Agenda

Wyre Borough Council  
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## Standards Committee meeting on Wednesday, 14 March 2018 at 2.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde

The Panel for the hearing will comprise: Cllr Marge Anderton, Cllr Lady Dulcie Atkins and Cllr Sue Catterall.

The Panel will be advised by the Deputy Monitoring Officer (Mary Grimshaw). Helen Kay, Independent Person, will also sit with the Panel in a non-voting capacity.

1. **Election of Chairman**
2. **Introduction and Apologies for Absence**
3. **Declarations of Interest**

Members will declare any pecuniary or significant other interests they have in relation to the items on this agenda.

4. **Code of Conduct: Alleged breach by Cllr Evelyn Stephenson**

- (a) Purpose of the meeting  
This meeting of the Standards Committee has been convened:
  - To consider an investigation report and its findings;
  - To hear representations from the Investigating Officer and the Subject Member;
  - To decide, on the basis of the evidence submitted and the representations made, whether the Subject Member has breached the Code of Conduct; and, if so,
  - To decide which, if any, of the available sanctions to impose.

- (b) Procedures to be followed  
This hearing is being conducted under the procedures for dealing with alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct agreed by Wyre Borough Council on 7 July 2016 and included in Part 5.02 of the Council's

(Pages 1 - 12)

Constitution, attached.

The procedures to be followed at this stage in the process are set out in the Hearing Procedures in Annex B.

- (c) Documents to be considered (Pages 13 - 46)  
The following documents are submitted for consideration by the Committee

- (i) Investigation report, compiled by the Council's Monitoring Officer, Liesl Hadgraft, attached.

The Monitoring Officer will present her report and will be accompanied by Barry Parsonage (Independent Person) who has been involved at earlier stages in the process of dealing with this complaint.

The Monitoring Officer has indicated that she intends to call Garry Payne (Chief Executive) as a witness.

- (ii) Councillor Evelyn Stephenson has confirmed that she will be attending the hearing.

She has indicated that she will be accompanied by Councillor Brian Stephenson, but that she does not intend to call any witnesses.

Councillor Stephenson has not submitted any written evidence in response to the Monitoring Officer's investigation report or specified any disagreement with the findings of fact in the investigation report.

- (d) Hearing - Stage 1: Consideration of evidence and representations on findings of fact and whether or not there has been a breach of the Code  
The Chairman will invite the Committee to follow the steps, set out in paragraphs 10 to 14 of the Hearing Procedures, subject to any variations made in accordance with paragraph 5 of the procedures.

When those steps have been completed, the members of the Committee will withdraw, with the Independent Person and the Deputy Monitoring Officer, to consider the evidence presented and reach their conclusions in private on whether or not there has been a breach of the Code (paragraphs 15 and 16 of the procedures).

When they have done so, they will return to the Chamber and the Chairman will announce the Committee's findings.

If the Committee decides that there has been no breach of the Code the Committee will decide if it wishes to make any comments or recommendations on any issues arising from the hearing and then close the meeting.

- (e) **Hearing - Stage 2 : Consideration of Sanctions**  
If the Committee has decided under stage 1 of the hearing that there has been a breach of the Code, the Chairman will invite the Committee to follow the steps relating to possible sanctions, set out in paragraphs 18 of the hearing procedures

When any representations by the Investigating Officer and the Subject Member have been made, the members of the Committee will withdraw again to consider in private, with the Independent Person and the Deputy Monitoring Officer, what sanctions, if any to impose.

When they have done so, they will return to the Chamber and the Chairman will announce the Committee's decision.

The Chairman will then close the meeting.