

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

At a meeting of this Committee held on
13 July 2020

(Present) **Councillor Bond (Chairman)**
Councillor Greaves, Groucutt, Jones, D Long, Maloney MBE,
Murphy, Sims, Sweeney and Quinn.

16 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received.

17 **MINUTES**

* **Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2020 be approved and signed.**

18 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS**

No Declarations of Interest from Members were made.

19 **MEMBER CODE AND PROTOCOLS**

A report was submitted which asked Members to consider five documents which were attached to the report and to provide any comments or further amendments and to recommend them to Council for adoption on 22 July 2020:

- i) Code of Conduct for Elected & Co-Opted Members
- ii) Protocol for Member / Officer relations
- iii) Protocol for Councillors and Officers dealing with Planning matters (Planning Protocol)
- iv) Ward Member Protocol
- v) St Helens – A Member led Council -Developing effective Member and Officer relations.

In order for any Council to operate effectively it was necessary to have robust Standards arrangements in place in order to safeguard local democracy, maintain high standards of conduct and to protect ethical practice in local government.

A key recommendation of the LGA's Corporate Peer Challenge report published in January 2019 was to highlight the need to improve joint working between Members and Officers. It stressed 'the need for a better understanding of their respective roles and reset the Council's culture to drive positive change and ensure it addresses the issue of poor Member behaviour'.

Members discussed views from the Groups attached at Appendix 7 to the report and asked the Monitoring Officer to make any necessary additions to the Protocols.

* **Resolved that comments from the Standards Committee be incorporated into the documents prior to submission to Council on 22 July 2020.**