

STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 27 SEPTEMBER 2017

Title of paper:	Establishment of a Standards Hearings Sub-Committee	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Malcolm Townroe, Monitoring Officer	Wards affected: All
Report author(s) and contact details:	Nancy Barnard, Governance Manager Nancy.barnard@nottinghamcity.gov.uk 0115 876 4312	
Other colleagues who have provided input:		
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)		
Relevant Council Plan Key Theme:		
Strategic Regeneration and Development		<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools		<input type="checkbox"/>
Planning and Housing		<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Services		<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy, Sustainability and Customer		<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs, Growth and Transport		<input type="checkbox"/>
Adults, Health and Community Sector		<input type="checkbox"/>
Children, Early Intervention and Early Years		<input type="checkbox"/>
Leisure and Culture		<input type="checkbox"/>
Resources and Neighbourhood Regeneration		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
This report asks the Committee to approve the establishment of a Sub-Committee to hear any complaints that a Councillor or Co-opted Member has breached the Code of Conduct which reach the stage of a formal hearing.		
Recommendation(s):		
1	To approve the establishment of a Standards Hearing Sub-Committee.	
2	To agree the terms of reference (attached as Appendix A) for the Sub-Committee.	
3	To note that the Constitutional Amendment required by the establishment of this Committee will require approval by Council in November.	

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 To ensure that complaints that a Councillor or Co-opted Member has breached the Code of Conduct can be heard as efficiently and effectively as possible.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 One of the responsibilities of the Standards Committee is to hear complaints which allege a Councillor or Co-opted Member has breached the Code of Conduct. At its last meeting this Committee agreed the process which would be followed in considering such complaints.

- 2.2 In order to ensure cases can be heard efficiently and to avoid having to convene a meeting of the entire committee it is proposed that a Sub-Committee is established to conduct the hearings. This would also allow for flexibility of membership on the Panel should any members of the full committee have had any prior involvement with the case under consideration.
- 2.3 The draft terms of reference for the Sub-Committee are attached as Appendix A.
- 2.4 Committees of Council such as the Standards Committee are able to establish sub-committees to carry out their functions but only Council has the authority to amend the Council's Constitution to formally incorporate sub-committees into the Council's governance arrangements. If agreed, a report will be taken to November's Full Council meeting asking Council to approve the inclusion of the Sub-Committee in the Constitution.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Hearings could be conducted by the full committee. This option was rejected for the reasons outlined above.

4 FINANCE COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

- 4.1 This report has no financial implications.

5 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)

- 5.1 Local Authorities are required by the Localism Act 2011 and subsequent regulations to have arrangements in place to consider complaints that a Councillor or Co-opted Member have breached the Code of Conduct. The proposals outlined above offer an efficient means of complying with the requirements.

6 STRATEGIC ASSETS & PROPERTY COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (FOR DECISION RELATING TO ALL PROPERTY ASSETS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE) (AREA COMMITTEE REPORTS ONLY)

- 6.1 None

7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



An EIA is not required because:

(Please explain why an EIA is not necessary)

An EIA is not required because the establishment of the Sub-Committee does not require and change to policy.

8 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

8.1 None

9 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

9.1 Reports to and minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 29 June 2017

Localism Act 2011 and subsequent regulations.