

At a meeting of the Standards Committee held in Council Chamber, Allerdale House on Thursday 24 February 2022 at 1.00 pm

Members

Councillor Malcolm Grainger (Chair)
Councillor Tony Annison
Councillor Peter Gaston

Councillor Elaine Lynch (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Nicky Cockburn
Councillor William Pegram

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Alan Kennon

Staff Present

S Sewell and L Tomlinson

407. Declaration of interests

Councillor M Grainger declared that he was aware of the complainant referred to in item 4 on the agenda because of his but had no personal relationship.

408. Questions

None received.

409. New Model Code of Conduct

The Monitoring Officer presented the report to the Committee and explained that the Committee for Standards in Public Life had produced a series of recommendations designed to strengthen the Standards regime. Most of the recommendations were matters for government as they required changes to legislation, however it was recommended that a new model code of conduct be developed.

The Local Government Association had published a Model Code which the Cumbria Monitoring Officer group had considered. A number of changes to the Model Code were recommended, which the Monitoring Officer group felt would result in a new Code that would better serve the needs of councillors across all tiers of local government within Cumbria.

Members considered the New Model Code and discussed the recommendations. Clarification was also sought on the level of value at which gifts and hospitality should be declared, including where gifts and hospitality had been offered but refused.

Members also agreed that there was an urgent need for a review of the legislative framework of the Standards regime in line with the recommendations of the Committee for Standards in Public Life.

Councillor E Lynch moved the recommendations.

Councillor N Cockburn seconded the motion.

A vote was taken and was unanimous.
The motion was carried.

Resolved

That Council be recommended

1. That the new model code of conduct, as amended, be approved
2. To write to central government to express the urgent need for consideration of the recommendations of the Committee for Standards in Public Life

410. Outcomes of Standards Investigations

The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented an update on complaint reference 2021/15(2). The Committee also considered the Investigating Officer's final reports into complaints 2020/04(a), 2020/04(b) and 2020/04(c)

Councillor E Lynch moved the recommendation.

Councillor N Cockburn seconded the motion.

A unanimous vote was taken.
The motion was carried.

Resolved

1. That no further action be taken in respect of the subject members of complaints reference 2020/04(a), 2020/04(b) and 2020/04(c)
2. That the parish council be recommended to provide training to all members on declaration of interests
3. That the parish council be recommended to arrange training on the Planning process, in particular the roles played by Allerdale Borough Council's Development Panel and the parish council
4. That the parish council be recommended to conduct a review of its governance arrangements with appropriate support from the Cumbria Association of Local Councils

The meeting closed at 2.20 pm