

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

15 October 2013

Standards Bulletin

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present to the Committee, for consideration, a draft Standards Bulletin. .

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Standards Bulletin is produced periodically and circulated to Members of the Authority to keep them informed of key developments in the standards regime.
- 2.2 In adopting the new ethical framework under the Localism Act 2011, the Authority decided that the continued production of the Standards Bulletin would help to maintain the Authority's statutory duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct.

3.0 THE STANDARDS BULLETIN

- 3.1 The latest draft edition of the Bulletin is attached at **Appendix 1** to this report.
- 3.2 The Committee is requested to consider the Bulletin with a view to its subsequent circulation.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 That, subject to any comments Members may have, the Bulletin be updated as necessary following the outcome of the Committee's meeting and then circulated to Members of the Authority.

CAROLE DUNN
Monitoring Officer

Background Papers:

- The Localism Act 2011

County Hall
NORTHALLERTON

4 October 2013



North

Yorkshire County Council

STANDARDS BULLETIN

INTRODUCTION

Work continues to embed the new ethical framework introduced under the Localism Act 2011.

Training on the new Code and standards regime will continue to be factored into future Member training however, as ever, should you wish to discuss any standards matter, please do not hesitate to contact the Monitoring Officer or any of her Team.

CAROLINE PATMORE
Chair of the Standards Committee

THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Members of the Standards Committee:

- **County Councillor Andrew Goss**
- **County Councillor Helen Grant**
- **County Councillor David Jeffels**
- **County Councillor Caroline Patmore**
- **County Councillor Peter Sowray**

Also invited to meetings of the Committee are:

- **Mrs Hilary Gilbertson MBE**, Independent Person for standards
- **Ms Louise Holroyd**, Independent Person for standards

If in doubt, please seek advice from the following:

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Ethical Framework **Web-Pages**

The Council's new website was launched on 3 October 2013.

It still has several webpages setting out details of the Council's ethical framework and publishing key standards documents which Members will find helpful, which can be accessed via the 'About the Council' tab:

<http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/23608/Councillors>

Interests' Regime

Members are reminded of the application of the interests' regime, as set out in the Code of Conduct.

Members must register and disclose 'disclosable pecuniary interests' as set out in the new regulations and detailed in the new Members' Code of Conduct, but no wider, non-pecuniary, interests (eg membership of public and charitable bodies).

A pecuniary interest is a disclosable pecuniary interest ("DPI") if it is of a description specified in regulations ie

- Employment, office, trade, profession or vacation (for profit or gain)
- Sponsorship
- Contracts
- Land
- Licenses
- Corporate tenancies
- Securities

(please see the Code for the detailed descriptions)

AND either:

- (a) it is the Member's interest or
- (b) an interest of—

- the Member's spouse or civil partner
- a person with whom the Member is living as husband and wife, or
- a person with whom the Member is living as if they were civil partners

AND the Member is aware of the interest.

A Member with a DPI may not participate in the discussion of, or vote on, Authority business (unless a dispensation is granted) and must withdraw from the meeting room.

The Standards Committee is currently considering the scope of the Council's registration of interests regime and whether recommendations should be made to full Council that the Code should be widened in this respect, particularly in light of recent DCLG Guidance that that councillors should treat trade union membership as a personal non-pecuniary interest which should be registered and declared. Members will be kept informed of developments in this area.

Register of Members' Interests

The Register of Members' Interests is maintained by the Monitoring Officer and is available for public inspection in Rm 11, County Hall.

Electronic copies of Members' interests forms (redacted to remove signatures) are also published on the Council's website (as required by the Localism Act) at:

<http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/23651/Councillors---declaration-of-interest>

Members must, within 28 days of becoming aware of a new interest or a change to an existing interest, register the necessary details by providing written notification to the Monitoring Officer.

Should you wish to amend your interests form, please contact Julie Robinson on ext 2953 to make the necessary arrangements or call in to Room 11 in County Hall, Northallerton.

Members' Gifts and Hospitality

Although gifts and hospitality offered and declined or received are no longer required to be registered in the Register of Members' Interests, Members do still need to register them with the Monitoring Officer, by completing the appropriate form and returning it to the Monitoring Officer.

Should you have any queries in relation to the registration of your interests or of any gifts or hospitality received/offered, then please feel free to contact the Monitoring Officer or any of her team.

Contributors:

MOIRA BEIGHTON
North Yorkshire Legal & Democratic Services

Resources

Localism Act 2011 and subordinate legislation.