

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

JOINT STANDARDS COMMITTEE

11 FEBRUARY 2014

Report of the Director of Central Services & Monitoring Officer

Part 1- Public

For recommendation to Council

1 ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEALING WITH CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Section 28(6) of the Localism Act 2011 requires the Borough Council to adopt arrangements for dealing with complaints of breaches of the Code of Conduct both by Borough Council members and by Parish/ Town Council members. Any such complaints can only be dealt with in accordance with the adopted arrangements.

1.1.2 On 10 July 2012 the Borough Council adopted the appropriate arrangements for Tonbridge and Malling.

1.1.3 The adopted arrangements now need to be reviewed to ensure they reflect the agreed structure of the Joint Standards Committee and its Hearing Panels.

1.2 Proposed amendments

1.2.1 The revised arrangements are attached at **Annex 1**. Members are asked to note that the arrangements have been amended in 2 respects –

(a) References to the Standards and Training Committee have been replaced with the Joint Standards Committee;

(b) Paragraph 1.1 of the Hearing Panel Procedure has been revised to reflect the agreed composition of the Hearing Panel

1.2.2 No further changes to the arrangements are proposed at this time. Members are also asked to note that any revisions to the Code of Conduct (attached as Annex 1 to the arrangements) now fall to be considered by the General Purposes Committee, but the current version of the Code is included for completeness.

1.3 Legal Implications

1.3.1 None other than set out above.

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.4.1 None arising from this report.

1.5 Risk Assessment

1.5.1 None arising from this report.

1.6 Equality Impact Assessment

1.6.1 Please see 'Screening for Equality Impacts' table below.

1.7 Recommendations

1.7.1 Members are asked to **RECOMMEND** to Council that the revised arrangements set out at **Annex 1** to this report are adopted.

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	N/A	
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		

Background papers:

contact: Adrian Stanfield

None

Adrian Stanfield

Director of Central Services & Monitoring Officer