

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Monday, 4 November 2019
Report Subject	Liaison with the Council on Ethical Issues
Report Author	Chief Officer Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In January 2019, the Committee on Standards in Public Life (“CSPL”) published a blueprint for the creation of a new ethical regime for English Councils. One of the recommendations was for Councils to arrange regular meetings between the Chair/Vice Chair of the Standards Committee and senior figures within the Council.

The Committee considered the CSPL’s recommendations at its meeting on the 2nd September 2019, and agreed to adopt this recommendation. The Leader and Chair of Council have both agreed to the proposal. This report suggests a standard agenda for such meetings and that they should take place every 6 months.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the agreement of the Leader and Chair of Council to 6 monthly liaison meetings be welcomed.
2	That the key issues set out in the report form the agenda for such meetings.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	Explaining the Proposed Meetings
1.01	<p>The Committee on Standards in Public Life (“CSPL”), also known as the “Nolan Committee”, made the original recommendations that led to the creation of Standards Committees. It recently reviewed, and, in January 2019, made a number recommendations to strengthen, the ethical regime in England following wide ranging changes made by the Localism Act 2011. This Committee reviewed those recommendations at its meeting on 2nd September 2019.</p>
1.02	<p>The CSPL recommended that - “BP15 senior officers to meet regularly with group leaders or whips re standards”</p> <p>The Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer already meet with group leaders and discuss standards issues (e.g. the recent changes to the Flintshire Standard). The Committee suggested that it might be helpful if the Chair/Vice Chair of this Committee met with senior Councillors. The Leader and Chair of Council have agreed to meet on a regular basis to discuss standards issues.</p>
1.03	<p>The meetings will be an informal two way discussion, and could cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the recent work of the Committee;• proposal for future work of the Committee;• any concerns about procedures, protocols or member behaviour. <p>I would suggest that such issues could form the basis for a regular/standard agenda. I would also recommend that the meetings take place every 6 months at the outset. A date has already been arranged for mid-November.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>The proposed meetings will have minimal resource implications.</p>

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	<p>The Leader and Chair of Council have been consulted.</p>

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	<p>The proposed meetings do not generate any additional risks for the Council and may help to improve the Council’s resolution of any perceived problems.</p>

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Local Government Ethical Standards Report.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-government-ethical-standards</p> <p>Contact Officer: Gareth Owens, Chief Officer Governance Telephone: 01352 702344 E-mail: Gareth.legal@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	None that are not explained within the report.