

**Blaby District Council**  
**Council**

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	28 January 2025
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Constitutional Amendment- Standards Committee terms of reference</b>  This is not a Key Decision and is not on the Forward Plan
<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Cllr. Terry Richardson - Leader of the Council</b>
<b>Report Author</b>	Elections and Governance Manager
<b>Strategic Themes</b>	Ambitious and well managed Council, valuing our people

**1. What is this report about?**

- 1.1 The report seeks approval for the proposed amendment to the Constitution outlined below.

**2. Recommendation(s) to Council**

- 2.1 That the Terms of Reference for the Standards Committee be amended as detailed in the report.
- 2.2 That the amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Standards Committee become effective from Annual Council to be held in May 2025.

**3. Reason for Decisions Recommended**

- 3.1 To create and maintain public confidence in the committee and to ensure that the membership of the Standards Committee models the behaviour required by the Code of Conduct supported by the Nolan Principles.
- 3.2 To provide clarification for Group Leaders prior to consideration of their nominations for the committee for the municipal year 2025/26.

**4. Matters to consider**

**4.1 Background**

The Member Code of Conduct requires that Councillors uphold the Seven Principles of Public Life, also known as the Nolan Principles. It sets out general principles of conduct expected of all members and their specific obligations in relation to standards of conduct. The fundamental aim of the Code is to create and maintain public confidence in the role of members and local government.

One of the key roles of the Standards Committee is promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Members and co-opted members of the authority.

If a member who is found to have breached the code of conduct recently is appointed to the Standards Committee, it could undermine public confidence in the ability of the Standards Committee to fulfil their role.

#### 4.2 Proposal(s)

That the Terms of Reference for the Standards Committee in Part 3 of the Constitution - Responsibility for Functions, Section 6, Sub-section 7 (Eligibility/Non-Eligibility for Membership) shown in Appendix A be amended to include the following wording:

‘A member is not eligible for appointment to this Committee if they have been found to be in breach of the Code of Conduct within the last 12 months, nor may they continue to sit on this Committee if they are found to be in breach of the Code of Conduct during their term of appointment. The Standards Committee may as part of its recommendations following finding of a breach of The Code choose to extend this by recommending to the Group Leader for that member that they are not put forward for nomination to the Standards Committee for the remainder of their term.’

It is proposed that this amendment will be incorporated into the Terms of Reference from the next Annual Council meeting, scheduled to be held in May 2025.

This proposal disqualifies a member for the 12 months following a breach of the code of conduct being found. If after 12 months there are no further breaches of the code of conduct, and assuming that no additional recommendation was made for an extended disqualification by the Committee, the member may be elected to the Committee. This would typically be as part of the normal appointment process at Annual Council. As with all committee appointments, this would require the approval of Council.

#### 4.3 Relevant Consultations

- Monitoring Officer (Corporate Services Group Manager)
- Chair of the Standards Committee (Cllr Maggie Wright)

#### 4.4 Significant Issues

- 4.5 In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities, and Climate Local and there are no areas of concern.

**5. Environmental impact**

- 5.1 No Net Zero and Climate Impact Assessment (NZCIA) is required for this report.

**6. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?**

- 6.1 There are no cost implications as a result of this report.

**7. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?**

- 7.1 None.

**8. Other options considered**

- 8.1 No other options are considered.

**9. Appendix**

- 9.1 Appendix A- Constitution Part 3 Section 6 Sub-Section 7

**10. Background paper(s)**

- 10.1 None.

**11. Report author's contact details**

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