

**Standards Committee**  
**29 NOVEMBER 2017**

Present: Councillors: David Coldwell (Chairman), Mike Morgan (Vice-Chairman), Roy Cornell, Brian Donnelly, Godfrey Newman and Michael Willett  
Parish Council Representatives: Philip Baxter and Val Court  
Independent Person: John Donaldson

Apologies: Councillor Roger Clarke and Independent Person Mary Jagger

SC/17 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 27 September 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

SC/18 **DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Philip Baxter advised that he had recently become Chairman of Billingshurst Community Transport, which on occasion applied for grants from the District Council.

SC/19 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

SC/20 **MINUTES OF THE LOCAL ASSESSMENT SUB-COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the meetings of the Local Assessment Sub-Committees held on 23 August and 27 September 2017 were received.

SC/21 **DCLG CONSULTATION - DISQUALIFICATION CRITERIA FOR COUNCILLORS AND MAYORS**

The Interim Monitoring Officer reported on the Consultation paper issued by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) regarding proposals to update the criteria disqualifying individuals from standing for or holding office as elected Members or directly-elected Mayors. The existing criteria were set out in the Local Government Act 1972 and the Government considered that the law should be updated to broaden the criteria to reflect current sentencing options.

The Committee noted the proposals in the Consultation paper and were satisfied that the proposals were timely and appropriate.

The Interim Monitoring Officer reminded Members that the Committee on Standards in Public Life would be undertaking a review of Local Government

Standards. Dr Jane Martin CBE, one of the Lay members on the Committee on Standards in Public Life, touched on this in a speech she gave at the Annual Conference of the National Association of Local Councils in October, stating that the review would commence early in 2018, with publication of its terms of reference and call for evidence.

Members agreed that this forthcoming review would be an opportunity for the Committee to submit its concerns regarding the current Standards Regime, in particular regarding the lack of statutory sanctions.

RESOLVED

That the Consultation proposals be noted.

SC/22 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business.

*The meeting closed at 10.30 am having commenced at 10.00 am*

CHAIRMAN