



“Moving towards higher standards”

Introducing The Chair



THE COMMITTEE'S COMMITMENT

“The Standards Committee is responsible for overseeing the conduct of the seven Parish Councils within the Borough and for dealing with any complaints made against them and/or their Councillors. Nationally the largest number of complaints regarding standards are made about our tier of Local Government.”

David Hughes

“Some years ago I was persuaded, rather against my wishes, to stand as a Parish Councillor for Duston Parish Council. I had always felt that Parish Councils were rather dozey things run by self interested members of the community. That may have been the case in the past, not so now. A well run Parish Council is able to have a considerable effect and say over the area it serves. Because of this incipient power it is imperative that all Councillors behave in an acceptable and legal fashion. The Standards Committee is a forum to which members of the public or fellow Councillors can bring concerns and complaints about actions/behaviour. So that is why I am here. I like to feel that in some small way I am helping to ensure happy and well run Parish Councils where bullying, over riding personalise are a thing of the past and professional standards are to the fore.”

Margaret Edwards

“As a new Councillor, I am surprised and honoured to sit the Standards Committee. We are fortunate to have an experienced and supportive Chair, who, along with the training provided, will stand us in good stead for the future. I am totally committed to the highest standards for all NBC members and am proud to be playing a small part in ensuring we start to make this happen. The people of Northampton deserve no less.”

Cllr Joy Capstick

“It was in 1215 that King John, a frequent visitor to this town, authorised the appointment of the first Mayor of Northampton. Records tell us that he also ordered “..... twelve of the better and more discreet residents of the Borough” to assist the Mayor as a Council. Some things change; now there are forty six of us to assist the Mayor, and she is a most gracious woman. But the intended integrity and dignity of our office as Councillors should remain unchanged through the centuries.”

Cllr Jean Hawkins

Who are the Standards Committee



- Independent Chair - Ian Harley
- Parish Councillor Representative - David Hughes
- Parish Councillor Representative - Margaret Edwards
- Cllr. Joy Capstick
- Cllr. Penny Flavell
- Cllr. Jean Hawkins
- Cllr. Richard Matthews



Changes to the Local Standards Framework

This is a brief summary of the key provisions of the Act relating to Standards



- The Council's Standards Committee will be responsible for the receipt of allegations and deciding whether any action needs to be taken from April 2008
- The Standards Committee **MUST** be chaired by an Independent Member
- The Standards Committee will report periodically on the allegations received and how they have been dealt with to the Standards Board of England
- The Standards Committee will be allowed to enter into joint working arrangements with other Standards Committees and other public bodies
- The Standards Board of England will be responsible for monitoring and ensuring the effectiveness of Standards Committees and offering support and guidance
- The Standards Committee will be able to refer a report to the Adjudication Panel for England if the sanctions available to it following an investigation are considered insufficient

What does the local filter really mean?

- The Monitoring Officer will receive **all** complaints
- The Standards Committee will decide whether the matter should be investigated or not
- If the matter is to be investigated the Monitoring Officer shall appoint an Investigating Officer to carry this out and will provide a report of their findings
- Should the Investigating Officer find "no breach" the Monitoring Officer shall report this to the Standards Committee who either accept the report or require a local hearing
- Should the Investigating Officer conclude there has been a breach, or the Standards Committee requires a hearing, a Sub-Committee shall be set up chaired by an Independent Member to hear the case and come to a decision on the balance of the evidence available and decide on a sanction

"Faster, more effective, more local"