

Appendix B

ETHICAL STANDARDS

TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. The Localism Act 2011 repeals the existing statutory framework regulating ethical standards for Members. The Act introduces new arrangements which are less prescriptive. This change will take effect on 1 July 2012. The purpose of this note is to explain the transition between the existing framework and the new arrangements.
2. The Council's Standards Committee will remain in place until 30 June and will be responsible for handling any complaints received during this period in accordance with existing framework. Complaints received will be assessed, investigated and determined by the Standards Committee through the existing system of Assessment, Review and Hearing Sub-Committees. During this period, the appointments of Independent Members and Town and Parish Council representatives serving on the Standards Committee will continue.
3. The Monitoring Officer will process all complaints received from now until 30 June 2012 in accordance with the existing framework. However, as 1 July 2012 approaches it will be more likely that any new complaints received will need to be handled under the new arrangements.
4. Currently, there are six active complaints. Every effort will be made to complete these cases before 30 June 2012.
5. Any complaints that remain outstanding on 1 July 2012 will be handled from that date in accordance with the new arrangements. The new arrangements will need to be in place by that date, including the appointment of at least one independent person, as required by the Localism Act 2011.