

STANDARDS QUESTIONNAIRE

Appendix B

<p>1. Are you a member of Borough Council or town Council?</p>	<p>6 RBC 4RBC and Whitworth Town Council 1 Independent 1 Town Council</p>
<p>2. Is there anything that works well in the current Code of Conduct?</p>	<p>9 said yes (1 commented there is always room for improvement) 1 said needs revising 1 didn't answer 1 said no (and commented that whilst the code is fairly sensible the way it is interpreted is often inconsistent)</p>
<p>3. Should the Borough and Town Council have a Code of Conduct?</p>	<p>All said yes</p>
<p>4. What would you like included in a new Code of Conduct?</p>	<p>The present code Further details about the circumstances of declaring interest Clearer definition of when a member is acting as a councillor and when acting as an individual Fairness and openness Nothing Balance and fairness Respect for each other Clearer guidance on the use and abuse of social media Behaviour, misconduct, abuse of office</p>

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<p>5. What would you like excluded in a new Code of Conduct?</p>	<p>All wording that is not “plain English” Vague statements that can lead to frivolous accusations being made Not sure 6 said nothing Any personal and prejudicial issues. Elections, dress code None of it</p>
<p>6. Should breaking the Code carry a penalty?</p>	<p>10 said yes (1 also commented always) 2 said depends on severity</p>
<p>7. What should the penalty be?</p>	<p>4 depends on severity/breach 1 censure, retraining covering what caused the breach, counselling and suspension if the breach is substantial. 1 as it present 1 fits the seriousness of the offence 1 banning from meetings and loss of allowance. 1 written warning, extra training, suspension or in exceptional circumstances expulsion. 1 proportionate to the breach 1 not for them to say 1 similar to present but with an open, honest, independent, and consistent approach</p>

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<p>8. Who should decide complaints about Members of Council, full Council or the Standards Committee or something else?</p>	<p>5 Standards Committee/Panel 1 cross section of councillors – equal number from groups including Independents 2 sub-committee – hear complaint. Monitoring Officer and senior member of committee to determine whether the complaint has merit 1 politically, public balanced committee. 2 something else (1 also commented that as the standards committee are usually made of sitting councillors and council employees all of whom may know the person/councillor concerned). 1 independent standards committee - totally independent.</p>
<p>9. Should the Borough Council continue to have a Standards Committee?</p>	<p>9 yes (1 also commented that it is important to maintain standards) 1 Standards Panel on same basis as other Working Groups 2 No – (1 commented that it should be convened as and when there is a need and 1 commented not in the current format).</p>
<p>10. Should Independent Members continue to have a role in Standards?</p>	<p>10 yes (1 commented only if they are really independent and 1 commented that otherwise party political bias would come into play) 1 no 1 yes but I would question their right to chair as they are not accountable</p>

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<p>11. Any other comments about the Code of Conduct or ethical standards in general?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• At all times it must be seen to be fair and balanced.• Important but have Code but difficult to manage if politicians involved in discipline.• Need complaints dealt with in the open, but some information disclosed should be confidential, publish outcome on the Council's website.• Used for petty way "tit for tat" – which wastes time and money and creates ill feeling.• I feel it is important to maintain this safeguard.• This is an opportunity to get a proper, fit for purpose standards regime, that properly understands its' role and remit. We need a decent selection process to choose appropriate people to participate in this very important function.• The code of conduct should and must be balanced at all times.
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