

Appendix A: Comments from the Standards Committee

Comment from Committee/Independent Person.	Reasons from the Committee	Officer Comment	Recommended Action
<p>That the introduction of the Local Resolution stage places Town and Parish Councils on the front line of dealing with complaints for the first time, and could all Towns and Parishes be advised of this change in advance.</p>	<p>To put Towns and Parishes on notice that there is an expectation that they will at least try to resolve matters at their level before it goes on to the Monitoring Officer.</p>	<p>The Monitoring Officer explained that the introduction of the Local Resolution stage into the procedure does not change the fact that the ultimate responsibility for dealing with member complaints remains with the Monitoring Officer of the principal council. If resolution cannot be achieved at local level it will always revert to the Monitoring Officer to deal with as has always been the case.</p>	<p>That Towns and Parishes be notified of the new stage so that they are prepared and able to respond to such referrals when made.</p>
<p>Paragraph 4.3 – The inclusion of the words <i>“An Independent Person or Reserved Independent Person cannot give advice on the Councillor’s proposed response to the complaint, or act as the Councillor’s advocate at any stage in the process”</i> at the end of the paragraph.</p>	<p>To avoid misunderstanding on what can be expected of the Independent and/or Reserved Independent Person.</p>	<p>Happy to strengthen the paragraph in the way suggested.</p>	<p>Proposed change be accepted.</p>

Appendix 1: STANDARDS COMPLAINTS ASSESSMENT CRITERIA – That point 3 be amended to include the words <i>“the Councillor was not acting in their capacity as a Councillor at the time of the alleged incident”</i> in the middle of the paragraph.	To strengthen the criteria by making specific mention of the need for members to be acting <i>“in their capacity as a councillor”</i> for a complaint to be relevant.	Happy to strengthen the paragraph in the way suggested.	Proposed change be accepted.
Appendix 3: THE FINAL DETERMINATION HEARING (FDH) PROCEDURE FOR THE STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE – Paragraph 6.1 to include the word <i>“and shall, where possible, receive representations on this from the parties involved”</i> at the end.	To allow for a sub-committee to hear the merits or otherwise of holding a final determination hearing in private.	Happy to strengthen the paragraph in the way suggested.	Proposed change be accepted.