

Committee details

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Standards Committee

- [Browse meetings and agendas for this committee](#)
- [View contact details for the members of this committee](#)
- [View declarations of interest](#)

Purpose of Committee

Our Standards Committee is a group of ten people appointed by the city council to promote high standards of conduct by city councillors, parish councillors and co-opted members. Five seats on the committee are taken by independent people - ordinary members of the public who have responded to our advert in the local press and applied to join the committee. They give their time voluntarily, to serve the community. One of these independent people chairs the committee. The rest of the committee is made up by five city councillors being representatives of the Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrats and English Democrats groups and the Peterborough Independent Forum. Two elected parish councillors also sit on the committee.

The committee promotes and maintains high standards of conduct by city and parish councillors, encourages all city and parish councillors to observe the [Code of Conduct](#), informs councillors about the Code of Conduct and helps them to avoid inadvertent breaches, arranges training for councillors on matters relating to the Code of Conduct and deals with any complaints about breaches of the Code of Conduct by a councillor.

[Local Standards Framework and Legislation](#).

Membership

- Steve Boast (Chairman)
- Anne Smith (Vice-Chairman)
- David Whiles
- Brenda Fearon
- Orlando Menendez

- [Councillor Adrian Miners](#)
- [Councillor Marion Todd](#)
- [Councillor Nazim Khan MBE](#)
- [Councillor Darren Fower](#)
- [Councillor Graham Murphy](#)
- Denis Batty
- [Councillor Zahid Hussain \(Reserve\)](#)
- [Councillor Ray Dobbs \(Reserve\)](#)
- Ronald Nesbitt (Reserve)
- [Councillor Nick Sandford \(Reserve\)](#)
- [Councillor Charles W Swift OBE \(Reserve\)](#)
- [Councillor Stephen Goldspink \(Reserve\)](#)

Contact Information

Support officer: Alex Daynes, 01733 452447.

Phone: 01733 452447

Email: alexander.daynes@peterborough.gov.uk



Home A-Z of Services Online Services Site Map Adv. Search Help Contact Us News Accessibility Text Only

Print this page

Home Council and democracy Democracy Councillor information Members' interests

Search powered by Google Search

29

- Home
- Council and democracy**
- Democracy
- Councillor information
- Members' interests**
- What is expected of a councillor
- Political breakdown

Members' interests

Under the code of conduct for councillors all members of the council must declare any interests of a personal or professional nature that they might have, in the interests of openness and transparency.

These are classified as:

financial or other interests including employment, property or business interests

involvement in external organisations, for example as a school governor or council representative on another public body

Details of all councillor's interests are maintained in a register kept for the purpose by the council's Democratic Services Section and is available for inspection by members of the public. Some councillors have also consented to details of their interests being published on the council's website. See your councillors information pages to see registered interests (if consented).

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Home A-Z of Services Online Services Site Map Adv. Search Help Contact Us News Accessibility Text Only

Print this page

Home Council and democracy Democracy Councillor information What is expected of a councillor

Search powered by Google Search

Home

Council and democracy

Democracy

Councillor information

Members' interests

What is expected of a councillor

Political breakdown

Google Translate

Select Language

Gadgets powered by Google

What is expected of a councillor?

Councillors come into contact with a very wide range of people and are asked to make decisions about many different local issues. It is important that they follow high standards of behaviour and integrity, acting as they do on the public's behalf. The council's Code of Conduct for members sets clear guidance for councillors and can be found within the council's constitution.

Some key points are:

Councillors must treat others with respect

Councillors must not bring the council into disrepute

Councillors must not use their council contacts or knowledge to secure to themselves or others an improper advantage, or to place others at a disadvantage

Councillors must not act on an issue where they have an obvious conflict of interest

Councillors must register with the council, in writing, details of any financial or other personal interests and these records are open to public inspection at the Town Hall. Some councillors have agreed that their interests can be viewed on our website. If a councillor is at a meeting where a subject is discussed in which he or she has a personal interest, that councillor must declare the interest publicly. In

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some cases the councillor must leave the meeting and not join in the debate and decision.

All complaints alleging a breach of the code of conduct are referred to a sub committee of the standards committee for initial assessment. Councillors and cabinet members lead the council's policy programme and make important choices about our services. Others approve (or reject) **planning and licensing** applications or hear appeals. Some provide independent challenge and scrutiny of cabinet and committee decisions. All 57 councillors together decide the **budget, council tax** and major policies.

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32