



SALFORD

sets the standards

SALFORD City Council has led the way in ensuring the highest possible standards for both council members and employees.

Even before legislation was introduced, providing a new ethical framework for local government, the city council set up a Standards Committee and a code of conduct which has been embraced by members.

The council has always prided itself on the high standards set by its members which has strengthened the bond of trust between the council and local communities.

As well as setting up the committee ahead of the new laws, the council has provided information to the Standards Board for England for inclusion in the national code of conduct.

The new ethical framework, established by the Local Government Act 2000 has set out standards of conduct which elected and co-opted members of the authority are expected to observe.

Anyone who believes that a member has failed to comply with an authority's code of conduct can make a written complaint to a new independent body, the Standards Board for England, which will investigate the allegations.

Ultimately, if a complaint proves to be well-founded, a member who has breached a code of conduct may be suspended from the authority, or even disqualified from holding public office for up to five years.

David Compston, who chairs the council's Standards Committee, commented: "As the independent chair of the standards committee, I know that the council expects the highest possible standards from all our members and employees.

"The City of Salford has been at the forefront of establishing a code of conduct and in fact was one of the first 14 councils in the country to do so. Much of the original Salford code of conduct is reflected in the national code which has since been adopted by the City of Salford.

"The public can be assured that the committee is determined to see these standards are achieved. I have been impressed by the commitment and desire by councillors to maintain the highest possible standards since I became chairman of the standards committee."

What is the Council's Standards Committee?

THE Standards Committee is there to ensure the national code of conduct is rigorously upheld and adhered to.

It consists of eight members - five councillors and three independent members of the public. It is one of the independent members, David Compston, who chairs the committee.

The other two independent members are Terrance Flynn and Brian Dunn, who serve alongside councillors Derek Antrobus, from Swinton North, Bob Boyd from Worsley and Boothstown, Karen Garrido from Worsley and Boothstown, Bernard Pennington from Walkden North and Alice Smyth from Little Hulton

The committee will:

- provide training to members on the National Code of Conduct
- provide advice to the council on the adoption and implementation of local codes of conduct
- provide advice to individual councillors regarding personal interests and conduct matters
- subject to the necessary legislation being passed, consider matters referred to it by the Regional Standards Board.

THE full text of the authority's code of conduct can be found on the Salford City Council website at www.salford.gov.uk under council constitution. It outlines obligations concerning

- discrimination and the fair treatment of others
- disclosure of information
- the use of the Authority's resources
- the reporting of improper conduct by other members
- the registering of interests
- the registration of gifts and hospitality