

Agenda Item 5 a) i)

Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting – Monday 2nd November 2020

The Committee on Standards in Public Life - Standards Matter 2: Public Consultation

From: Daptc <daptc@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>

Sent: 23 October 2020 16:00

Subject: FW: STANDARDS MATTER 2: PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND PUBLIC SECTOR SURVEYS

Importance: High

IMPORTANT – please bring this to the attention of your Chair and Council members and note the response timescale. Please read the email thread below from NALC.

Many thanks

Neil Wedge, CE

Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils



[DAPTC Website](#)

Enabling Local Councils to Achieve Excellence

From: policycomms <policycomms@nalc.gov.uk>

Sent: 21 October 2020 17:39

Subject: STANDARDS MATTER 2: PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND PUBLIC SECTOR SURVEYS

Importance: High

Dear colleagues

The Committee on Standards in Public Life has recently launched a consultation as part of its review into the institutions, processes and structures in place to support high standards of conduct. The terms of reference of the review are to:

- Review the evidence as to how well ethical standards are upheld in public life in the UK
- Review the evidence on the strength of the UK's arrangements for regulating and promoting ethical standards
- Review the adequacy and continuing relevance of the Seven Principles of Public Life,
- Identify examples of best practice in the regulation of ethical standards
- Identify examples of best practice in the promotion of cultures that celebrate and encourage high ethical standards.

The main consultation document is available [here](#).

NALC will be responding to the consultation questions as follows:

Question 1: Standards of Conduct in the UK

A. How well do you think ethical standards - as enshrined by the Seven Principles of Public Life - are upheld in public life today?

- B. Do you believe that there have been any notable shifts in approaches or attitudes to ethical standards in public life in recent years?
- C. What do you see as the most significant threats to ethical standards in public life today?

Question 2: The Seven Principles of Public Life

- A. Do the Seven Principles of Public Life accurately describe the appropriate ethical responsibilities for those in public roles, including both political and non-political office-holders?
- B. Would you amend or replace any of the principles or their descriptors? If so, how?

Question 3: The UK's arrangements for regulating standards

- A. Are you confident that the UK's arrangements for regulating ethical standards are robust and effective?
- B. Are there any areas of public life where regulation on issues of ethical standards is not strong enough?

Question 4: Best practice in standards regulation

- A. What makes an effective standards regulator?
- B. Do the UK's standards regulators have the right powers and remit to act effectively?
- C. Should the independence of standards regulators be enhanced and protected, and if so, how?

Question 5: Creating ethical cultures

- A. How can the Seven Principles best be embedded within a public sector organisation's working culture?
- B. What are the most significant obstacles to embedding high ethical standards in a public sector organisation?

Responses

Please email your responses to this consultation to policycomms@nalc.gov.uk by 17.00 on 4th December 2020. County associations are asked to forward this email onto all member local (parish and town) councils in their area.

Kind Regards

Jessica Lancod-Frost

Policy Officer

National Association of Local Councils

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The Committee on Standards in Public Life

Standards Matter 2: Public Consultation

The [Committee on Standards in Public Life](#) is carrying out a landscape review of the institutions, processes and structures in place to support high standards of conduct. [The terms of reference for the review are available on our website.](#)

Respondents may want to familiarise themselves with [CSPL's map of the UK's standards regulators which is available here.](#)

This consultation runs from 11:00 on the 22 September 2020 to 17:00 on the 18 December 2020.

Anyone with an interest in public standards may make a submission. The Committee welcomes submissions from members of the public.

Replies to this consultation should be emailed to public@public-standards.gov.uk. Further details on how to respond are below.

Consultation Questions:

Question 1: Standards of Conduct in the UK

- A. How well do you think ethical standards - as enshrined by the Seven Principles of Public Life - are upheld in public life today?
- B. Do you believe that there have been any notable shifts in approaches or attitudes to ethical standards in public life in recent years?
- C. What do you see as the most significant threats to ethical standards in public life today?

Question 2: The Seven Principles of Public Life

- A. Do the Seven Principles of Public Life accurately describe the appropriate ethical responsibilities for those in public roles, including both political and non-political office-holders?
- B. Would you amend or replace any of the principles or their descriptors? If so, how?

Question 3: The UK's arrangements for regulating standards

- A. Are you confident that the UK's arrangements for regulating ethical standards are robust and effective?
- B. Are there any areas of public life where regulation on issues of ethical standards is not strong enough?

Question 4: Best practice in standards regulation

- A. What makes an effective standards regulator?
- B. Do the UK's standards regulators have the right powers and remit to act effectively?
- C. Should the independence of standards regulators be enhanced and protected, and if so, how?

Question 5: Creating ethical cultures

A. How can the Seven Principles best be embedded within a public sector organisation's working culture?

B. What are the most significant obstacles to embedding high ethical standards in a public sector organisation?

How to make a submission:

Submissions can be sent either in electronic format or in hard copy.

Submissions must:

- State clearly who the submission is from, i.e. whether from yourself or sent on behalf of an organisation;
- Include a brief introduction about yourself/your organisation and your reason for submitting evidence;
- Be in word, rtf, or odt format, not PDF;
- Be concise – we recommend no more than 2,000 words in length; and
- Contain a contact email address.

Submissions should:

- Have numbered paragraphs; and
- Comprise a single document. If there are any annexes or appendices, these should be included in the same document.

It would be helpful if your submission included any factual information you have to offer from which the Committee might be able to draw conclusions, and any recommendations for action which you would like the Committee to consider.

The Committee may choose not to accept a submission as evidence, or not to publish a submission even if it is accepted as evidence. This may occur where a submission is very long or contains material which is inappropriate.

Submissions will be published online with any contact information (for example, email addresses) removed.

The Committee will publish anonymised submissions (where the name of the respondent and any references to named individuals are removed) where a respondent makes a reasonable request to do so.

Submissions sent to the Committee after the deadline of 17:00 on 18 December 2020 may not be considered.

We can only accept submissions via email. Please email your submission to: public@public-standards.gov.uk

If you have any questions, please contact the Committee's Secretariat by email (public@public-standards.gov.uk). If you have any questions you would prefer to discuss by telephone, please include your contact number in the email.

The Committee on Standards in Public Life

Standards Matter 2: Terms of Reference

The [Committee on Standards in Public Life](#) is carrying out a landscape review of the institutions, processes and structures in place to support high standards of conduct.

Terms of Reference:

This review intends to:

1. Review the evidence as to how well ethical standards are upheld in public life in the UK;
2. Review the evidence on the strength of the UK's arrangements for regulating and promoting ethical standards;
3. Review the adequacy and continuing relevance of the Seven Principles of Public Life;
4. Identify examples of best practice in the regulation of ethical standards;
5. Identify examples of best practice in the promotion of cultures that celebrate and encourage high ethical standards.

1. The Seven Principles of Public Life

The Seven Principles of Public Life (also known as the Nolan Principles) apply to anyone who works as a public office-holder. This includes all those who are elected or appointed to public office, nationally and locally, and all people appointed to work in the Civil Service, local government, the police, courts and probation services, non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), and in the health, education, social and care services. All public office-holders are both servants of the public and stewards of public resources. The principles also apply to all those in other sectors delivering public services.

1.1 Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

1.2 Integrity

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

1.3 Objectivity

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

1.4 Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

1.5 Openness

Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

1.6 Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful.

1.7 Leadership

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.