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MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Princes Road
Maldon
Essex CM9 5DL

www.maldon.gov.uk

16 November 2026

APOLOGIES: Committee Services
Email: Committee.clerk@maldon.gov.uk

CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Doug Wilkinson

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend the meeting of the;

JOINT STANDARDS COMMITTEE

on **TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2026** at **7.30 pm**

in the **Council Chamber, Maldon District Council Offices, Princes Road, Maldon.**

A copy of the agenda is attached.

Yours faithfully

Chief Executive

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:

CHAIRPERSON	Councillor P L Spenceley
VICE-CHAIRPERSON	Councillor A M Lay
COUNCILLORS	M G Bassenger V J Bell S J Burwood S J N Morgan J C Stilts M E Thompson
PARISH / TOWN COUNCILLORS (non-voting)	Councillor M J Hall Councillor S C Stratton
INDEPENDENT PERSON (non-voting)	Mr J Mitchell

Please note: Electronic copies of this agenda and its related papers are available via the Council's website www.maldon.gov.uk.

AGENDA
JOINT STANDARDS COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2026

1. **Chairperson's Notices**

2. **Apologies for Absence**

3. **Minutes of the last meeting** (Pages 5 - 6)

   To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Standards Committee held on 28 April 2026 (copy enclosed).

4. **Disclosure of Interest**

   To disclose the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Other Registrable interests and Non-Registrable Interests relating to items of business on the agenda having regard to paragraph 9 and Appendix B of the Code of Conduct for Members.

   (Members are reminded that they are also required to disclose any such interests as soon as they become aware should the need arise throughout the meeting).

5. **Any other items of business that the Chairperson of the Committee decides are urgent**

6. **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

   To resolve that under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act, and that this satisfies the public interest test.

7. **Outstanding Code of Conduct Complaint** (Pages 7 - 48)

   To consider the report of the Monitoring Officer (copy enclosed).

NOTICES

Recording of Meeting
Please note that the Council will be recording and publishing on the Council's website any part of this meeting held in open session.

Fire
We do not have any fire alarm testing scheduled for this meeting. In the event of a fire, a siren will sound. Please use either of the two marked fire escape routes. Once out of the building please proceed to the designated muster point located on the grass verge by the police station entrance. Please gather there and await further instruction. If you feel you may need assistance to evacuate the building, please make a member of Maldon District Council staff aware.

Health and Safety
Please be advised of the different levels of flooring within the Council Chamber.

Closed-Circuit Televisions (CCTV)
Meetings held in the Council Chamber are being monitored and recorded by CCTV.

Lift
Please be aware, there is not currently lift access to the Council Chamber.

PROCEDURE RULE 18 – ATTENDANCE BY MEMBER AT COMMITTEE

A Member of the Council may attend Committee meetings of which they are not a member and may also speak by prior arrangement with, and at the discretion of, the Chairperson. This procedure rule shall not apply to meetings of the Appointments Board, Investigating and Disciplinary Committee and Panel (all matters) and the Joint Standards Committee (when considering matters deemed to be private / confidential and where the public is to be excluded from the meeting).

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MINUTES of
JOINT STANDARDS COMMITTEE
28 APRIL 2026

PRESENT

Chairperson	Councillor M G Bassenger
Vice-Chairperson	Councillor M E Thompson
Councillors	S J N Morgan, J C Stilts, Michael, S C Stratton and J Driver (Substitute for S J Burwood)
Parish / Town Councillors	Councillors M J Hall and S C Stratton
Independent Person	Mr J Mitchell

1. CHAIRPERSON'S NOTICES

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting and went through some general housekeeping arrangements for the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTION NOTICE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S J Burwood and U G C Siddall-Norman. In accordance with notice duly given it was noted that Councillor J Driver was attending as a substitute for Councillor Burwood.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

There were none.

4. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act, and that this satisfies the public interest test.

5. OUTSTANDING CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT

The Committee considered the report of the Monitoring Officer seeking Members' consideration on how to progress an outstanding complaint made against a Councillor.

The report provided details of two complaints that had been received in March 2024 in relation to the behaviour of a Councillor. It was noted that an independent investigation

into these complaints had been carried out and the draft report was attached at Appendix A to the report.

The Monitoring Officer presented her report and reminded the Committee that it was not here to discuss the merits of the draft report (Appendix A) but whether the process should be reopened and continued.

The Committee discussed the report along with the three options set out for progressing the complaints. In response to questions raised the Monitoring Officer provided further information and confirmed that she could request further information from the Councillor.

Councillor J C Stilts proposed that the Committee agrees Option B – to place the complaint on hold for a further six months. This proposal was duly seconded.

The Chairperson then put the proposal in the name of Councillor Stilts, also requesting that the Monitoring Officer approach the Councillor to obtain further information. Upon a vote being taken this was duly agreed.

RESOLVED that the outstanding complaint made against a Councillor (as set out in the report) be placed on hold for a further six months (until October 2026) and further information from the Councillor be requested by the Monitoring Officer.

There being no other items of business the Chairperson closed the meeting at 12.55 pm.

M G BASSENGER
CHAIRPERSON

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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