

# The Committee on Standards in Public Life

**Jane Ramsey**

**Independent Committee Member  
Committee on Standards in Public Life**

NALC spring conference  
11 February 2019

Committee on  
Standards in  
Public Life

# COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE:

## The Seven Principles of Public Life

### 1: Selflessness

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

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 6: Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful.

### 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.

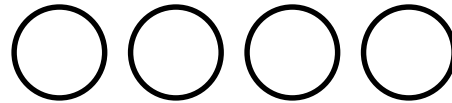
# COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE: ROLE AND REMIT

→ An small, independent body, independent of both Parliament and Government

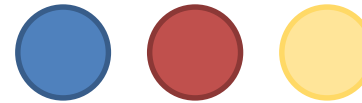
Independent  
Chair



Four non-political members



Three political members



- We are not a regulator and do not investigate individual cases
- We examine concerns of conduct of all holders of public office and make recommendations as to any changes needed
- Remit expanded to include political parties and funding (1997) and those delivering public services (2013). Since 2013, we cover England only.

# COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE: Membership



**Lord Jonathan Evans of  
Weardale KCB DL, Chair**



**Dr Jane Martin CBE**



**Dame Shirley Pearce DBE**



**Jane Ramsey**



**Monisha Shah**



**Simon Hart MP  
(Conservative)**



**Rt Hon Dame Margaret Beckett  
DBE MP (Labour)**



**Rt Hon Lord Stunell OBE  
(Liberal Democrat)**

# The Committee on Standards in Public Life:

## How we go about our work

- A wide remit, free to choose our work programme
- This can be anticipating issues, or can be reactive when needed - e.g. *Intimidation in Public Life Report*
- Our primary work takes the form of inquiries leading to published reports eg *Local Government Ethical Standards*. We also monitor standards issues and contribute to others' consultations
- We depend for our influence on our evidence, persuasiveness and transparency. We have no regulatory or executive powers and cannot force people to accept our recommendations

# **The Committee on Standards in Public Life: Launch of Local Government Ethical Standards Report**



**Launch of Report  
31 January 2019  
In the  
Commonwealth  
Parliamentary  
Association Room,  
Westminster Hall,  
Parliament, London**



# The Committee on Standards in Public Life: Launch of Local Government Ethical Standards



**Panel members: Jonathan Goolding, Dame Stella Manzie DBE, Lord Evans, Dr Jane Martin CBE**