

Wiltshire County Council established a Standards Committee in 2000.

The Standards Committee is, broadly speaking, responsible for ethical governance issues within the County Council. It has 6 members, 4 of whom are completely independent of the Council, and 2 of whom are elected County Councillors. The committee usually meets once a month at County Hall in Trowbridge.

Over the last 3 years, the Standards Committee has carried out the following duties:

- It has conducted several review panels to consider serious complaints made by members of the public about council services, and made recommendations to the council following the review panel hearings. It has considered reports made by the Local Government Ombudsman in relation to complaints, and approved appropriate remedies for individual complainants:
- It has carried out a thorough review of the Council's Constitution, which is the document that sets out the procedures by which the Council carries out its functions, and made several recommendations for change to the Council as a result of the review:
- It has closely monitored the Council's standards of conduct in ethical matters, working together with the Audit Commission and the Internal Audit department. The Committee has overseen a programme of ethical governance development across the Council.

From November 2004, the Standards Committee will also take on the responsibility to determine certain complaints made about the conduct of County Councillors. The committee will have to meet to consider what sanctions, if any, should be applied in the event of a Council member's misconduct.