



Focus on fire, police and park authorities

Joint arrangement models: Single standards committee

Potential advantages

- Most efficient use of resources
- High public confidence in impartiality
- Fully collaborative, best use of shared good practice
- No prospect of different standards committees disagreeing
- Solves problems with recruitment and retention of independent members

Potential disadvantages

- Risk of losing sense of local filtering
- Potential problems with differing terms of reference
- Potential problems with getting out of joint arrangements if things don't work out
- How will the committee be administered / funded?
- Potential accessibility problems for members and subjects
- If cross-sector working, how do you agree a consistent response to potential Code breaches?

Joint arrangement models: Individual standards committees but with joint sub-committees (for assessments, reviews, hearings etc)

Potential advantages

- Some efficiencies on resources made
- Public confidence in impartiality
- Some collaboration and sharing of good practice
- Strong sense of local filtering
- Committees can maintain differing terms of reference
- Helps solve some of the problems with recruitment and retention of independent members

Potential disadvantages

- Prospect of standards committees disagreeing
- Potential problems with getting out of joint arrangements if things don't work out
- How will joint sub-committees be administered / funded?
- Potential accessibility problems for members and subjects
- If cross-sector working, how do you agree a consistent response to potential Code breaches?
- Differing levels of member's allowances

Joint arrangement models: Individual standards committees but enabling some functions (e.g. review requests) to be handled by a partner authority

Potential advantages

- High public confidence in impartiality of review request
- Strong sense of local filtering
- Committees can maintain differing terms of reference
- Might be simpler to get out of joint-working arrangements if things don't work out

Potential disadvantages

- No resource efficiencies made
- Not much collaboration / sharing of good practice
- Prospect of standards committees disagreeing
- If cross-sector working, how do you agree a consistent response to potential Code breaches?
- Would this need to be formalized?

Joint arrangement models: Individual standards committees but shared use of a pool of independent members

Potential advantages

- Some efficiencies on resources made
- Solves problems with recruitment and retention of independent members
- Some collaboration and sharing of good practice
- Strong sense of local filtering
- Committees can maintain differing terms of reference
- Might be simpler to get out of joint-working arrangements if things don't work out

Potential disadvantages

- Potential accessibility problems for members
- Potential problems with current independent members on fixed terms

Standards committees: Other responsibilities

- Auditing role, combine the standards committee with the auditing committee
- Training on Code issues, complaints procedure, register of interests etc
- Should standards committees have a role in promoting ethics among officers, not just authority members?
- Raising awareness – promoting the remit of the standards committee amongst members, officers and the public
- Working with an authority's strategy-makers to ensure that the issue of ethics and standards is embedded within the key policies of the authority's constitution and targets
- Working with authority officers (e.g. Equalities & Diversity Officer)
- Overseeing a whistleblowing policy
- Respond to reports from Ombudsman, auditors
- Looking at staff grievances and implementing tribunal decisions relating to suspensions
- Supporting general, non-Code complaints monitoring
- Overseeing employee and user satisfaction surveys
- Considering other protocols (e.g. expenses, use of authority equipment etc)

Joint working

- **What are the different ways authorities could work together?**
- **What are the advantages and disadvantages of each of these models?**

Role of standards committees

- **What are the functions your standards committee currently performs?**
- **What other functions could a standards committee perform?**