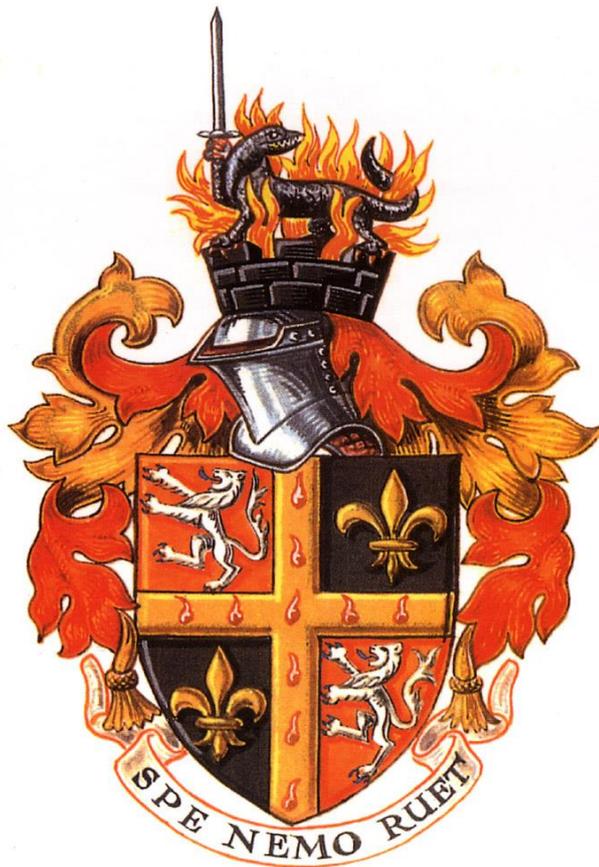


SPENNYMOOR TOWN COUNCIL



COMMENTS AND COMPLAINTS POLICY

Author of Policy:	Town Clerk
Date Effective From:	16 May 2017
Policy Review: When & By Whom	13 April 2017– Constitution Working Group
Next Review:	September 2020
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In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this document will be posted on the Council's Website www.spennymoor-tc.gov.uk and copies of this document will be available for inspection on deposit in the Council Offices, Town Hall, Spennymoor. Costs are as per the model publication scheme.

1. Comments and Complaints Policy

1. This procedure is to be followed for all complaints regarding the administration of the Council's services or its procedures. **It is not appropriate for complaints regarding the conduct of an individual employee of the Council or for complaints regarding the conduct of individual elected Members.**
2. A complaint is defined by the Council as ***“any expression of dissatisfaction with services delivered, or procedures adopted, by the Council whether received in writing, in person, by telephone or e-mail.”***

2. First stage

3. Initially all complaints should be addressed to, and will be dealt with by, the Town Clerk.
4. All complaints will be responded to within 7 working days. However if the complaint is particularly serious or complex an interim response will be provided within 7 working days indicating when a full response is likely to be received.

3. Second stage

5. If a complainant is unhappy with the response a request may be made to the Town Clerk for the Appeals Committee of the Council to hear the complaint.
6. The complainant shall be invited to attend a meeting of the Appeals Committee and bring with them such representative as they wish.
7. The complainant shall provide the Council with copies of any documentation or other evidence which they wish to refer to at the meeting at least 7 working days prior to the meeting. Similarly the Council shall provide the complainant with copies of any documentation upon which they intend to rely within the same time period.

8. The Appeals Committee shall consider whether the circumstances of the meeting warrant the exclusion of the press and public.
9. The complainant shall outline the grounds for the complaint.
10. Members will ask any question(s) of the complainant they deem necessary.
11. The Town Clerk will explain the Council's position.
12. Members will ask any question(s) of the Town Clerk they deem necessary.
13. The Town Clerk and the complainant will be offered an opportunity of any further comment.
14. The complainant and the Town Clerk will be asked to leave while the Committee decide whether or not the grounds for the complaint have been justified.
15. The complainant and the Town Clerk will return to hear the decision or to be advised when a decision will be made.
16. The decision will be confirmed in writing within 7 working days together with details of any action to be taken.