

Article 9 – The Standards Committee

9.1 Standards Committee

The Council will establish a Standards Committee.

9.2 Composition

(a) **Membership.** The Standards Committee will be composed of:

- six councillors (can include one member of the Cabinet but not the Leader);
- five independent members who are not councillors or officers of the council or any other relevant authority;
- four members of parish/town councils wholly or mainly in the Council's area (Parish Members).

(b) **Independent members.** Independent members will be entitled to vote at meetings;

(c) **Parish members.** The parish member must be present when matters relating to parish councils or their members are being considered. The parish member will be entitled to vote at meetings.

(d) **Chairing the Committee.** An Independent Member must chair the committee.

9.3 Role and Function

The Standards Committee will have the following roles and functions:

- (a) promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives;
- (b) assisting the councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives to observe the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (c) advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (d) monitoring the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (e) advising, training or arranging to train councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct;

- (f) granting dispensations to councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (g) dealing with any reports from a case tribunal or interim case tribunal, and any report from the monitoring officer on any matter which is referred by an ethical standards officer to the monitoring officer;
- (h) the appointment of sub committees for the purpose of discharging any of the Committee's functions including the consideration and determination of complaints of breaches of the Code of Conduct for Members;
- (i) the exercise of (a) to (h) above in relation to the parish councils wholly or mainly in its area and the members of those parish councils.

9.4 Additional Functions

The Standards Committee will also have the following additional functions

- (a) to comment on issues raised by the Council's internal and external auditors in relation to matters within the Committee's remit;
- (b) Consideration of the Members Allowances Scheme and recommendation to the Council.