

Section 8 – Standards Committee

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1 Membership

- a) The Council will have a Standards Committee which is not politically balanced. In accordance with a resolution passed by Council, there shall be two members drawn from each political group. Substitute members are permitted in accordance with paragraph 4.7.28 of the rules of procedure for Council.
- b) There shall be one non-voting, co-opted parish councillor.
- c) There shall be one non-voting-co-opted independent member.

2 Quorum and Frequency of meetings

- a) The quorum of the Committee shall be three members.
- b) Meetings will take place three times per annum although the Chair has the discretion to vary this due to levels of business.

3 Responsibility

Within their terms of reference the Standards Committee will be responsible for:

- a) promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by the members and an co-opted members of the council;
- b) assisting members and any co-opted members of the Council 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 members and any co-opted members of the council on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct;
- f) performing the functions set out in (a) - (e) above in respect of the parish councils in the Borough;
- g) granting dispensations to members and any co-opted members from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct;
- h) dealing with any reports from the Monitoring Officer on any matter;
- i) advising on what should be entered into the register of interests for members and co-opted members;
- j) dealing with matters relating to the recruitment of co-opted independent and parish members of the Standards Committee;
- k) dealing with matters relating to the recruitment of the Independent Person and to make recommendations to Council as to the appointment of the Independent Person.
- l) approving all strategies, policies, protocols and procedural documents that fall within the remit of the Committee (excluding budget and policy framework items).

4 Hearing Panels

The Council will have sub-committees of the Standards Committee which are not politically balanced. The Hearing Panel will be drawn from the membership of the Standards Committee and will comprise of one Councillor from each Group together with a non-voting co-opted member.

5 Delegation

a) Hearing Panel

Each Hearing Panel is authorised to consider allegations following an investigation, determine whether the member did fail to comply with the Code of Conduct and impose an appropriate sanction.

b) Officer Delegation

Delegations from the Standards Committee to Officers can be found in Section 19 of this constitution.

6 Rules of Procedure

- a) Paragraphs 4.7.2, 4.7.7, 4.7.13(d), 4.7.17, 4.7.18, 4.7.19, 4.7.20, 4.7.21, 4.7.22, 4.7.28 and 4.7.29 of the rules and procedure for Council (section 4 of this constitution) shall apply to meetings of the Standards Committee as they apply to Council meetings.

- b) References to "the Mayor and Deputy Mayor" shall apply to the Chair and Vice-Chair respectively of this Committee and references to the "Council Chamber" shall apply to the room in which the meeting is held.