

## Article 9

### **The Standards Committee**

Authority to deal with matters relating to the recruitment of independent and parish members of the Standards Committee.

#### **9.01 Standards Committee**

The Council will have a Standards Committee which is not politically balanced.

#### **9.02 Role and Function**

The Standards Committee will have the following roles and functions:

- (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) granting dispensations to members and any co-opted members from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (g) dealing with any reports from the Monitoring Officer on any matter;
- (h) performing the functions set out in (a) - (e) above in respect of the parish councils in the Borough;
- (i) advising on what should be entered into the register of interests for members and co-opted members;
- (j) authority to deal with matters relating to the recruitment of co-opted independent and parish members of the Standards Committee;
- (k) authority to deal with matters relating to the recruitment of the Independent Person and to make recommendations to Council as to the appointment of the Independent Person.

#### **9.03 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.

#### **9.04 Delegation**

##### **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.

### **Monitoring Officer**

Authority to grant a dispensation if having had regard to all the circumstances, it is considered that –

- without the dispensation, the number of persons prohibited from participating in any particular business would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business as to impede the transaction of that business; and
- that, without a dispensation, no member of the Cabinet would be able to participate on the matter.

Authority to deal with Code of Conduct complaints in accordance with the approved Arrangements for Dealing with Complaints.

Authority to constitute the membership of the Hearings Panel at any time.

Authority, in consultation with Members of the Committee, to respond to consultation documents within the remit of the Standards Committee, in circumstances where it is not practicable for the consultation document to be dealt with at a committee meeting.