

PART 3 –STANDARDS COMMITTEE

1. Establishment

1.1 The Council will establish a Standards Committee.

2. Composition

2.1 Standards Committees do not have to comply with the political balance rules in section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

3. Membership

3.1 The Standards Committee will be composed of at least:

- Two Members other than the Leader of the Council
- One person who is not a Member or an Officer of the Council or any body having a Standards Committee (an independent member)
- One Member of a parish or town council wholly or mainly in the Council's area (a parish/town council member)

4. Voting

4.1 All members of the Committee will be entitled to vote at meetings of the Committee.

5. Parish/Town Council Members

5.1 At least one parish/town council member must be present when matters relating to parish/town councils or their members are being considered.

6. Chairing the Committee

6.1 A member of the Cabinet may not chair the Committee.

7. Role and Function (Terms of Reference)

7.1 The Standards Committee will have the following role and functions:

- (a) promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Members and any Co-opted Members;
- (b) assisting the Members and any Co-opted Members to observe the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (c) advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (d) monitoring and advising the Council about the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct in light of best practice, changes in the law and guidance from the Standards Board for England;

- (e) advising, training or arranging to train Members and any Co-opted Members on matters relating to the Members Code of Conduct and ensuring that this training is actively promoted and that Members are aware of the standards expected from them under the Code;
- (f) granting dispensations to Members and any Co-opted Members from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (g) functions relating to standards of conduct of Members under any relevant provision of, or regulations made under, the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007;
- (h) 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;
- (i) the exercise of (a) to (h) above in relation to the parish/town councils wholly or mainly in its area and the Members of those parish/town councils and any Co-opted Members; and
- (j) delegated authority to make amendments to the Local Assessment Procedure following any amendments to the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 and the guidance produced by the Standards Board for England.
- (k) delegated authority to make amendments to the 'Guidance on Applying Appropriate Sanctions when a Member has breached the Code of Conduct' should any amendments to the Guidance be received from the Standards Board for England.

8. Codes and Protocols

8.1 High standards lie at the root of the Council's activities and the work of the Standards Committee is supported by:

Appendix Q - Members' Code of Conduct

Appendix S - Procedure for Local Assessment of Complaints relating to Allegations of Member Misconduct

Appendix T – Sub-Committees of the Standards Committee

Appendix U - Guidance on Applying an Appropriate Sanction

Appendix V - Procedure and Protocol for Interviewing Independent and Parish and Town Council Representatives

Appendix K - Protocol on Gifts and Hospitality

Appendix O - Members' Register of Interest Form

Appendix W - Guidance of Disclosure of Confidential Information by Members