

Article 9 – Standards Committee

9.01 Standards Committee

- The Council will establish a Standards Committee.

9.02 Composition

- (a) **Membership.** The Standards Committee will be composed of:
- the Chairman of the Council;
 - the Vice-Chairman of the Council;
 - immediate past Chairman of Council (unless they are no longer a Councillor, for example during an election year, in which case a Member who is not a member of the Executive Committee shall be appointed in their place);
 - two other Councillors who are not members of the Executive Committee;
 - three people who are not councillors or officers of the Council or any other body having a Standards Committee (Independent Members);
 - three town/parish council members representing town/parish councils wholly or mainly in the Council's area (the Town/Parish Members);
- (b) **Independent members.** Independent Members will be entitled to vote at meetings. At least one Independent member must be present at any meeting of the Committee;
- (c) **Parish members.** The Parish Members will be entitled to vote at meetings and at least one must be present when matters relating to any parish councils or their members are being considered;
- (d) Members of the Executive Committee shall not be members of the Standards Committee;
- (e) The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee will be elected from amongst the independent lay members of the Committee.

9.03 Role and Function

The Standards Committee will have the following roles and functions:

- (a) promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Councillors and co-opted members;
- (b) assisting the Councillors and 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, guidelines and protocols on all aspects of conduct and behaviour within the Council;
- (d) monitoring the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (e) advising, training or arranging to train Councillors and co-opted members on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct;

- (f) granting dispensations to Councillors and co-opted members 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 exercise of (a) to (g) above in relation to the parish councils wholly or mainly in the Council's area and the members of those parish councils;
- (i) consideration of complaints at the appropriate stage of the Council's complaints procedure;
- (j) consideration of reports and findings of the Local Government Ombudsman; and
- (k) accountability for the oversight of Members' remuneration/allowances.

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