

PART 8

THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

8.1 STANDARDS COMMITTEE

8.1.1 The Council will establish a Standards Committee in accordance with Section 53 of the Local Government Act 2000

8.1.2 Composition

8.1.2.1 General. The Standards Committee will be composed of at least three Councillors (who may not include the leader) and at least three persons who are not a Councillor or an officer of the Council or any other body having a standards committee (the independent members). By Convention the councillors are the Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Council. The independent members will be entitled to vote at meetings. A member of the Executive may not chair the Committee, current members should be shown at Appendix 19.

8.1.2.2 Parish Council Matters. The Standards Committee will also exercise functions of the Council relating to those parish councils in respect of which the Council is the responsible authority. It will include at least three members of any of the parish councils and at least one of these persons must be present when matters relate to parish councils or their members are discussed.

8.1.3 Role and function

8.1.3.1. The role or function of the Standards Committee will be:

- Promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by the Councillors and co-opted members of the Council.
- Assisting Councillors and where appropriate co-opted members to observe the Council's Code of Conduct.
- Advising the Council on the re-adoption or revision of the Councillors Code of Conduct
- Advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the protocol for members and officers relations.
- Monitoring the operation of the Council's Code of Conduct .

- Advising, training or arranging to train the Councillors and co-opted members of the Council on matters relating to the Councillor's Code of Conduct .
- Exercising the above function in relation to parish council for which it is the responsible authority and the members of those councils.
- Granting dispensations to Councillors co-opted members and church and governor representatives from requirements relating to interests set out in the Councillor's Code of Conduct.
- Dealing with any reports from the case tribunal or interim case tribunal and any report from the Monitoring Officer or any matter which was referred by the Standards Board to the Monitoring Officer.
- To assess and review complaints about Councillors
- To conduct determination hearings .
- To grant exemptions for politically restricted posts.
- To receiving reports on complaints procedures and/or reports from Local Government Ombudsman or external auditors.
- To receiving the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel.
- To comment on recommendations on members allowances.
- To advise the Council on the appointment of independent members.
- To consider whether or not the constitution reduces the opportunity for misconduct and promotes effective governance conduct of business etc.

8.1.4. Conduct of Business etc

8.1.4.1 The quorum for the Standards Committee will be three which must comprise of an independent person who shall be the chairman of the committee and comprise of a parish council member when considering parish matters.

8.1.4.2 The chairman shall not have a casting vote

8.1.4.3 The Standards Committee will establish an assessment sub-committee and a review sub-committee to discharge functions of the committee in accordance with the terms of reference set out below and to constitute a hearing panel to make a determination and shall record whether that recommendation has been reached unanimously. In the absence of unanimity there will be provision in reporting that decision to Council for members of the Standards Committee to express their individual viewpoints.

8.1.4.4 The Standards Committee may establish a sub-committee to discharge any of its functions and will operate in accordance with Parts 2 and 5 of the Constitution.

8.1.4.5 The Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic will appoint a substitute member should any member for any reason be unable to serve on the Committee or any of its sub-committees.