

Standards Committee

Terms of reference

- (a)** Promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Councillors; Parish Councillors; co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives
- (b)** Oversee the effectiveness of the Council's Constitutional arrangements from an ethical perspective and make recommendations to the Council on any desirable or necessary changes
- (c)** Recommend to the Council Codes of Conduct and Practice or Protocols for members and/or employees of the Council, including planning issues and Arrangements for dealing with complaints
- (d)** Monitor and review such Codes and Protocols and the Register of Members interests
- (e)** Consider and determine any allegations of misconduct against Members of the Council in accordance with the Codes and the Arrangements for dealing with complaints against councillors
- (f)** Grant dispensations to Councillors; Parish Councillors; co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives relating to disclosable pecuniary interests as set out in the Localism Act 2011.
- (g)** Consider i) any application for exemption from political restrictions in respect of a post, by the holder of that post, and ii) any application from any person for a direction requiring a post to be included in the list of politically restricted posts.
- (h)** Consider any reports from the Council's Monitoring Officer regarding illegality, unlawfulness or maladministration and any report of the Local Government Ombudsman.
- (i)** Consider and determine the Council's response to any internal or District Audit regulatory recommendations referred to the Committee by the Monitoring Officer.
- (j)** Make representations to the Government, Local Government Association and other external bodies on matters relating to the general principles of conduct for members and employees of the Council;
- (k)** Make arrangements for training to Councillors; Parish Councillors; co-opted members and employees in connection with any matter within the terms of reference of the Committee.
- (l)** Liaise with the District Auditor and the Local Government Ombudsman in connection with any matter within the committee's terms of reference;

- (m) Recommend to the Council from time to time as necessary the appointment of Independent Members to the Committee following open advertisement, short listing and interview.

Membership of the Standards Committee

- 5 x elected members (voting) –
- 3 x independent members - one of whom will chair the Committee (non-voting).
- 3 x Parish representatives (non-voting)
- The Independent Person and Deputy Independent Person will be invited to attend the meeting and provide relevant comment.

Quorum

For ordinary business, the quorum is 3 members, plus one independent member. When considering parish matters, the quorum shall include at least one parish representative.

For considering individual cases, the quorum shall be 5 members, including at least one independent member, and if a parish matter, at least one parish representative.

No more than one Cabinet Member may be appointed to the Committee. The Leader of the Council may not be a member of the Committee. In no circumstances may a Cabinet member chair a meeting of the Standards Committee.