

## Article 9 – The Standards Committee

### 9.01 Standards Committee

- (a) **Membership**  
The Standards Committee will be composed of:
- five Councillors of which only one can be a member of the Cabinet.
  - three persons who are not Councillors or Officers of the Council or any other body having a Standards Committee (the Independent Members);
  - two Members drawn from Parish Councils wholly or mainly in the Council's area (the Parish Members).
- (b) **Independent and Parish Council Members** will be entitled to vote at meetings;
- (c) **Parish Members.** A Parish Member must be present when matters relating to Parish Councils or their Members are being considered;
- (d) **Chairing the Committee.** An Independent Member will chair the Committee or any sub-committee thereof.

### 9.02 Role and Functions

The Standards Committee will have the following roles and functions:

- (a) promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Councillors and any Co-opted Members
- (b) assisting Councillors 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 the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (e) advising, training and arranging to train Councillors and any Co-opted Members on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (f) granting dispensations to Councillors and any Co-opted Members from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct, or otherwise, or, in the case of Parish Councillors, also granting dispensations from the rules relating to the declaration of pecuniary interests.
- (g) receiving complaints alleging a breach or breaches of the Code of Conduct by a Councillor or Councillors and taking action in such manner and form as the Committee is permitted by law
- (h) reviewing decisions by a a member of the Committee or by a sub-committee upon the action to be taken in respect of a complaint, providing that no member of the Committee may undertake a review of a decision where he himself was party to the decision that is to be reviewed
- (i) hearing any complaints made against any Councillor or co-opted Member referred by the Committee or a sub-committee or member thereof for investigation by or on behalf of the Monitoring Officer;
- (j) dealing with and hearing any investigation report received from the Monitoring Officer an Ethical Standards Officer, a case tribunal or interim case tribunal;
- (k) considering any application for exemption from political restriction in respect of a post on the establishment of the Borough Council or a Parish Council within the Borough pursuant to s3 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989
- (l) the exercise of (a) to (k) above in relation to the Parish Councils wholly or mainly in the Borough and Members of those Parish Councils;
- (m) authorising payments or provision of benefits above £10,000 to persons affected by maladministration.

### 9.03 **Sub Committees of the Standards Committee**

The Standards Committee may appoint one or more Sub-Committees and may arrange for the discharge of their functions by any such Sub-Committees.

### 9.04 **Standards Referrals Sub-Committee**

A sub-Committee of the Standards Committee established by the Standards Committee from time to time to conduct the initial local assessment of complaints received by the Council in relation to the conduct of members of the Borough Council and the Parish Councils within the Borough.

### 9.05 **Standards Referrals Appeals Sub-Committee**

A sub-Committee of the Standards Committee established by the Standards Committee from time to time to consider appeals against the initial local assessment of complaints received by the Council in relation to the conduct of members of the Borough Council and the Parish Councils within the Borough.

### 9.06 **Quorum**

- (i) The quorum for a meeting of the Standards Committee shall be 3 Members (including at least one independent Member) provided that an independent Member is elected chair. The quorum shall also include a minimum of one Parish Council member when considering matters in relation to a Parish Council or Parish Councils.
- (ii) The quorum for a meeting of a sub-committee of the Standards Committee shall be 3 Members (including at least one independent Member) provided that an independent Member is elected chair. The quorum shall also include a minimum of one Parish Council member when considering matters in relation to a Parish Council or Parish Councils.