

10. ARTICLE 10 – THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

10.1 Standards Committee

The Council will establish a Standards Committee.

10.2 Composition

Political Balance

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

Membership

The Standards Committee will be composed of:

five Councillors other than the Leader and the Chairman of the Council;

two persons who are not Councillors or officers of the Council or any other body having a Standards Committee (an independent member);

one member of a Parish Council wholly or mainly in the Council's area (a Parish member)

Independent members

Independent members will be entitled to vote at meetings;

Parish members

At least one Parish member must be present when matters relating to those Parish Councils or their members are being considered;

Chairing the Committee

A member of the Executive may not chair the Committee.

10.3 Quorum

The quorum for a meeting of the Standards Committee shall be three, which must include at least one independent member.

The Standards Committee will have the following role 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;
- (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; **(NB Regulations are required from the Secretary of State to enable the Standards Committee to do this);**
- (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 its area and the members of those Parish Councils;
- (i) such other functions as may be delegated by the Council as shown in Schedule 3 of this Constitution.