

## Article 8 – The Standards Committee

### Standards Committee

8.1 The Council meeting will establish a standards committee.

#### Composition

- 8.2 (a) **Membership.** The Standards Committee will be composed of
- three Councillors;
  - four persons who are not councillors or officers of the Council or any other body having a standards committee (Independent Members) the Term of Office of the Independent Members will be five years;
  - two members of a parish council wholly or mainly in the Council's area (a parish member);
- (b) **Independent Members.** Independent Members will be entitled to vote at meetings;
- (c) **Parish Members.** Parish Members must be present when matters relating to those parish councils or their members are being considered. Parish Members will be entitled to vote at meetings.
- (d) **Parish Councils Sub-committee.** The Standards Committee will include a sub-committee to exercise the function set out in Article 8.3 below. The sub-committee will include at least one Independent Member and one Parish Member.
- (e) **Chairing the Committee.** The Committee will be chaired by an Independent Member.

#### Role and Function

- 8.3 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 Councillor's Code of Conduct;
  - (c) overseeing the development, implementation and review of an ethical framework and codes of conduct for Councillors, Co-opted Members and officers;
  - (d) monitoring the operation of the Councillors' Code of Conduct;
  - (e) providing advice and guidance to Members and employees and making arrangements for training in connection with any matters within the terms of reference of the Committee;
  - (f) granting dispensation to Councillors and Co-opted Members from requirements relating to interests set out in the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

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- (g) dealing with any reports from a case tribunal or interim case tribunal, and any report from the Monitoring Officer on any matter including any allegations or complaints about bullying, harassment or intimidation or any matter which is referred by an ethical standards officer to the Monitoring Officer.
- (h) Making recommendations from time to time for amendments to the Council's Disciplinary and Grievance procedures arising out of any matter within the Committee's Terms of Reference generally in connection with the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998;
- (i) Responding to issues raised by the Local Government Association and Central Government and any other organisation about any matter relating to the general principles of conduct for Members or employees of the Council;
- (j) Liaising between the Council and external agencies, in particular the External Auditor and the Local Government Ombudsman, in connection with any matter within the Committee's Terms of Reference;
- (k) Developing guidance in relation to Members' conduct whilst representing the Council on outside partnerships, companies or organisations;
- (l) Providing guidance on, and keeping under review, arrangements for the declaration of Members' financial and non-financial interests;
- (m) The exercise of (a) to (l) above in relation to the parish councils wholly or mainly in its area and the members of those parish councils.
- (n) To raise awareness and advise and encourage training on the effects of bullying harassment and intimidation, and the avoidance thereof.