

ARTICLE 9 – THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**Standards Committee**

- 1 The Council will establish a Standards Committee.

Composition

- 2 General

The Standards Committee does not have to comply with the political proportionality rules set out in Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing 1989 Act.

Parish Council business will be conducted through the main committee and this arrangement will be reviewed after one year.

- 3 Membership

The Standards Committee will be composed of at least:

- (a) Six Members (and shall not include the Leader, Commissioners, Mayor and Deputy Mayor and the Chairs and Vice Chairs of Planning and Licensing Committee) at least three of whom must be drawn from the Opposition
 - (b) Four persons who are not Members or officers of the Council or any other body having a standards committee (Independent Members).
 - (c) One Member of a Parish Council wholly or mainly in the Council's area (a Parish Member)
- 4 Independent Members, the Parish Council Member and, in his/her absence, his/her Standing Deputy will be entitled to vote at meetings.
 - 5 Parish Members.
 - (a) At least one Parish Member must be present when matters relating to those Parish Councils or their Members are being considered.
 - (b) The Parish Councils wholly or mainly in the Council's area will nominate the Parish Council Member to serve on the Committee and a Standing Deputy to act in his/her place in the event of the Member being unable to act. In the event of more than one nomination being received in respect of the Parish Council Member and/or the Standing Deputy the matter will be referred to the Council for agreement on the recommendation of the Standards Committee.

Quorum

- 6 The quorum of the Committee shall be
 - (a) Subject to (b) below a minimum of three Members including at least one Independent Member. If matters relating to parish councils or their members are

to be considered one of the three must be the Parish Council Member or his/her Standing Deputy.

- (b) Where an Independent Member is prevented from participating under the Council's Local Code of Conduct for Members referred to in Part 5 of the Constitution, the requirement to have one Independent Member shall not apply.

Chair

- 7 The Chair of the Committee will be an Independent Member elected by the Committee.

Roles and Functions

- 8 The Standards Committee will have the following roles and functions:
 - (a) Promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Members, Co-opted Members and Church and Parent Governor Representatives.
 - (b) Assisting Co-opted Members and Church and Parent Governor representatives to observe the Council's Ethical Framework including the Local Code of Conduct.
 - (c) Advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Council's Ethical Framework including the Local Code of Conduct.
 - (d) Monitoring the operation of the Council's Ethical Framework including the Local Code of Conduct.
 - (e) Advising, training or arranging to train Members and Co-opted Members and Church and Parent Governor Representatives on matters relating to the Council's Ethical Framework including the Local Code of Conduct.
 - (f) Granting dispensations to Members, Co-opted Members and Church and Parent Governor representatives from requirements relating to interests set out in the Local Code of Conduct.
 - (g) The exercise of (a) to (f) above in relation to the Parish Councils wholly or mainly in its area and the Members of those Parish Councils.
 - (h) Keep under review and make recommendations to the Council on the Whistle-Blowing Policy and Procedure.
 - (i) In conjunction with the Monitoring Officer to produce an annual report for submission to Council for information on matters within the purview of the Committee.
 - (j) To put in place and keep under review arrangements for monitoring Members' performance.
 - (k) To receive and consider reports on individual Members' performance.
 - (l) To decide any requests from a Member or Officer for indemnity as set out in the Council's adopted Policy on Terms of Indemnity.