

Article 9 – The Standards Committee

9.01 Standards Committee

The Council will establish a Standards Committee

9.02 Composition

- (a) **Membership.** The Standards Committee will be composed of at least:
- four councillors other than the Leader (no more than one member who is a member of the Cabinet);
 - two persons who are not councillors or officers of the Council or any other body having a Standards Committee (independent members);
 - three members of a Parish Council wholly or mainly in the Council's area (parish members) who are not also members of the borough council.
- (b) **Independent members.** Independent members will not be entitled to vote at meetings;
- (c) **Parish members.** At least one parish member must be present when matters relating to Parish Councils or their members are being considered. Parish Members will not be entitled to vote at meetings
- (d) **Chairing the Committee.** An Independent member must chair the committee;
- (e) **Quorum.** At least three elected members of the Standards Committee must be present together with one independent member and at least 1 Parish member when considering Parish Council matters.

9.03 Role and Function

The Standards Committee will have the following roles and functions:

- (a) promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by councillors and co-opted members and operating the "Standards regime – arrangements" as appropriate;
- (b) assisting 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 and effectiveness 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;
- (g) dealing with any reports from the monitoring officer on any matter which is referred to the monitoring officer;
- (h) setting up procedures for the initial assessment of alleged breaches of the Codes of Conduct for Members;
- (i) setting up procedures for the investigation of and subsequent report on, alleged breaches of the Codes of Conduct for Members;
- (j) the exercise of (a) to (i) above in relation to the parish councils wholly or mainly in its area and the members of those parish councils;
- (k) advising the Council on the adoption and subsequent review of a Code of Conduct for officers;
- (l) advising, training or arranging to train officers on matters relating to the Code of Conduct for officers;
- (m) advising the Council on the adoption and subsequent review of the Council's Whistleblowing Code;
- (n) dealing with applications from officers for exemptions from political restrictions in respect of their posts;
- (o) where appropriate, issuing direction to include a post in the list of politically restricted posts it maintains;
- (p) advising, following consultation with appropriate parties, on the application of criteria for designation of a politically restricted post;

9.04 Standards Regime - Arrangements

Repeat in Constitution as Appendix 1