

ARTICLE 9 - THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

9.1 Appointment

The Council will appoint a Standards Committee at its Annual Meeting.

9.2 Membership

The Standards Committee will be composed of at least:

- (a) two councillors other than the Leader;
- (b) one person who is not a councillor or an officer of the council or any other body having a standards committee (an independent representative);
- (c) two members of a parish council in the Council's area (a parish member);

Where the Committee has more than three Members, at least 25% shall be independent representatives. No more than one Member can be a member of the Executive.

9.3 Independent Representatives

Independent representatives will be entitled to vote at meetings;

9.4 Parish Members

Parish members must be present when matters relating to those parish councils or their members are being considered.

9.5 Appointment of Sub-Committees

The Standards Committee will appoint the following sub-committees:

- (i) Those sub-committees required by law to exercise functions conferred on the Standards Committee by the Local Government Act 2000.
- (ii) A Parishes Sub-Committee to exercise those functions of the Standards Committee which relate to a Parish Council and which are not required by law to be discharged by another Sub-Committee.

9.6 Chairing the Committee

The Chairman of the Standards Committee and its Sub-Committees shall be an Independent Representative.

9.7 Role and Function

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 the 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 or 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;
- (g) considering complaints that a councillor or co-opted member may have failed to comply with the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (h) the exercise of (a) to (g) above in relation to the parish councils in the Council's area and the members of those parish councils.
- (i) keeping an overview of and recommending changes to the Codes and Protocols in the Constitution;
- (j) considering the granting and supervision of exemption of posts from political restrictions under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989;
- (k) any other responsibilities which may be delegated to it by the Council.