

Article 9 – The Standards Committee

9.01 Standards Committee

The Council meeting will establish a Standards Committee.

9.02 Composition

The Standards Committee will be composed of five Councillors, not more than one of whom may be a Member of the Executive, and six people who are not Councillors or officers of the Council or any other body having a Standards Committee (the independent members). The independent members will be entitled to vote at meetings, and will be appointed in accordance with Regulations. The Chair of the Standards Committee will be an independent member. When investigating a complaint against a Member, the Committee will be chaired by an independent member. The quorum of the Committee will be three Members of the Committee, including at least two independent members, subject to the provisos contained in the Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) Regulations 2001.

9.03 Substitutions

No member of the authority who is not appointed to the Standards Committee will be allowed to sit on the Committee or any of its sub-committees as a substitute member. Any member of the Standards Committee may act as a substitute member for any of the Standards sub-committees' members, so long as the quorum is adhered to and there is no risk of bias.

9.04 Role and Function

The Standards Committee will have the following roles and functions:

- (a) promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives;
- (b) assisting the Councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives to observe the Members' Code of Conduct and associated local protocols;
- (c) advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct and associated local protocols;
- (d) monitoring and reviewing the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct and associated local protocols;
- (e) developing for recommendation to the Council local protocols to supplement the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (f) enforcing local protocols and applying sanctions in respect of breaches as appropriate;
- (g) advising, training or arranging to train Councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct and associated local protocols;

(h) granting dispensations to Councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct and associated local protocols;

(i) undertaking the local assessment of complaints against members of the Authority and where necessary applying appropriate sanctions, in accordance with all statutory requirements.

(j) keeping under review, amending and making additional provisions to the Protocol on Member/Officer relations;

(k) monitoring the Officers' Code of Conduct to ensure consistent application and enforcement Council-wide;

(l) maintaining a general overview of probity matters arising from Ombudsman reports, Monitoring Officer reports and Audit Commission reports.