

Terms of Reference

Standards Committee

The Standards Committee will have the following roles and functions:

- (a) Promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Councillors, co-opted members and representatives of religious organisations and parent governor representatives;
- (b) Assisting the Leader, Councillors, co-opted members and representatives of religious organisations and parent governor representatives 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 co-opted members on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct and the ethical framework;
- (f) Granting dispensations to the Elected Mayor, Councillors and co-opted members from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (g) Advising the Council on codes and protocols forming the Council's ethical framework and its governance arrangements, monitoring the effectiveness of those arrangements and making reports and recommend
- (h) Assessing, hearing and determining allegations of failure to comply with the Members' Code of Conduct by Councillors and co-opted Members.
- (i) Responding to national reviews and consultations on standards related issues;
- (j) Granting exemptions for politically restricted posts and giving directions to include a post on the list of restricted posts;
- (k) Advising the Council on the appointment of independent Persons and taking steps to select them.

[Article 9.02 of the Council's Constitution provides that the Standards Committee will be composed of councillors appointed on the basis of political balance. In addition the Standards Committee may appoint up to six non-voting co-opted members.]

Assessment Sub-Committees

To consider all allegations referred to the Sub-Committee by the Monitoring Officer that a member or co-opted member has failed to comply with the Members' Code of Conduct and to determine whether the allegation:

- (a) Merits no further action and is dismissed, or
- (b) Merits further investigation.

The quorum of the Assessment Sub-Committee is three.

Hearing Sub-Committees

- (a) To conduct hearings into allegations referred for investigation by the Assessment Sub-Committee that a member or co-opted member has failed to comply with the Members' Code of Conduct.
- (b) To determine whether or not the member or co-opted member did / did not fail to comply with the Members' Code of Conduct.
- (c) Where the Sub-Committee has determined that a member has failed to comply with the Members' Code of Conduct to take such action as it may lawfully take.
- (d) In consequence of the hearing and determination of any allegation to make recommendations to the Council with a view to promoting high standards of conduct amongst members.

The quorum of the Hearing Sub-Committee is three.

[Articles 9.04 and 9.07 of the Council's Constitution provide that the two sub-committees will be composed of councillors appointed on the basis of political balance.]