

ARTICLE 9 EXTRACT FROM THE CONSTITUTION

1. **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

The Council shall at the annual meeting establish a Standards Committee.

2. **MEMBERSHIP**

The Standards Committee shall comprise -

- ◆ 7 members of the Council including no more than one member of the Cabinet but excluding the Leader;
- ◆ 3 independent members who are not councillors or officers of the Council or any other local authority; and
- ◆ 2 town or parish councillors, representing town and parish councils in the District.

A member of the Cabinet may not chair the Committee.

The independent members shall be appointed to serve on the Committee for a term of four years from the date of their appointment and in the event that the independent member fails to attend a meeting or function associated with the Committee for a period of nine months, that member would be automatically disqualified from membership of the Committee.

The Chairman of the Committee, or in his absence, the Vice-Chairman, irrespective of whether that person is an elected Member, should present the report of the Committee at Council meetings.

3. **VALIDITY OF PROCEEDINGS**

The independent members and town or parish councillor will be entitled to vote at meetings. The quorum for a meeting of the Committee is at least three members of the Council and at least one independent member. The town or parish councillor must be present when matters relating to town and parish councils or their members are being considered.

Where at least one independent member would have been present for the duration of the meeting but for the fact that he was prevented or restricted from participating in any business of the authority by virtue of its Code of Conduct, the above requirement for the quorum to include at least one independent member shall not apply.

4. **FUNCTIONS AND ROLE**

The Standards Committee will have the following functions and roles in respect of the District Council and its members and town and parish councils and their members -

- ◆ promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by members;
- ◆ assisting members and co-opted members to observe their authority's code of conduct;

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- ◆ advising the Council on the adoption or revision of a Members' Code of Conduct and monitoring the operation of the Code;
- ◆ advising, training or arranging to train members and co-opted members on matters relating to the Code;
- ◆ granting dispensations to councillors and co-opted members from the requirements relating to interests in the Members' Code of Conduct;
- ◆ dealing with reports from a case tribunal or interim case tribunal or any report from the Monitoring Officer on any matter which is referred by an Ethical Standards Officers to the Monitoring Officer;

The Standards Committee shall have the following other functions in respect of the District Council and its members -

- ◆ formulating and recommending to the Council for adoption a Protocol for Member/Officer Relations and monitoring the operation of the Protocol; and
- ◆ adoption of a Code of Conduct for Planning and monitoring the operation of the Code.