

ARTICLE 9 - STANDARDS COMMITTEE

1. STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Council shall at the annual meeting establish a Standards Committee ~~under Section 102 of the Local Government Act. Its composition shall be governed by proportionality and it shall be subject to the same requirements on confidential and exempt information as any other Committee. The Committee must be chaired by an independent member.~~

2. MEMBERSHIP

The Standards Committee shall comprise -

- ◆ 7 members of the Council (~~of whom one must be to include one a member of the Cabinet but excluding the who is a Member of the Executive Leader/Executive~~);
- ◆ 1 Independent Person (IP)~~4 independent members~~ who ~~are is~~ not a councillor or officers of the Council or any other local authority; and (to be appointed*)
- ◆ 3 2 town or parish councillors, representing town and parish councils in the District. (to be appointed*)

~~A member of the Cabinet may not chair the Committee.~~

The independent ~~members person (and Deputy)~~ shall be appointed to serve on the Committee for a term of ~~four~~ three years from the date of their appointment as required under Section 28(7) of the Localism Act. ~~and if~~ 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 his/her membership of the Committee duties. An Independent Person shall be eligible for reappointment for a further term or terms.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee will be elected by the Committee and the Chairman of the Committee, or or in his/her 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~~ Person and town or parish councillors will be entitled ~~to vote at meetings to attend meetings as non voting co optees.~~ 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;
- ◆ 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 **District** councillors and co-opted members from the requirements relating to interests in the Members' Code of Conduct;
- ~~◆ determining requests from complainants to review decisions not to take action or to investigate an alleged breach of the Members' Code of Conduct;~~
- ~~◆ consider reports arising from any investigation of alleged misconduct and to make a decision on the findings of the Investigator;~~
- ◆ undertaking hearings into alleged breaches of the **Members'** Code of Conduct;
- ~~◆ determining appropriate sanctions or actions in response to breaches of the Code of Conduct; and~~
- ~~◆ maintain an overview of dispensations granted to parish councillors from requirements relating to interests set out in a code of conduct;~~
- ~~◆ the exercise of the above in relation to parish councils in Huntingdonshire and members of those Parish Councils; and~~
- ◆ granting and supervising the exemption of certain posts from political restrictions under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

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**s of Conduct for Planning and Licensing and monitoring the operation of the **Code**s.

5. SUB COMMITTEE OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Committee may appoint a Sub Committee comprising 3 Members to –

- ~~◆ consider reports from an investigator appointed to investigate an alleged breach of the Code of Conduct;~~
- ~~◆ to act as a Hearings Panel to consider determinations following an investigation on an alleged breach of the code of conduct; and~~
- ~~◆ to consider urgent requests for dispensations from District Council Members?~~

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