

## Part 2

### Article 9 – The Standards Committee

#### 9.01 Standards Committee

The Council will establish a Standards Committee.

#### 9.02 Composition

##### Political Balance

Standards Committees do not have to comply with the political balance rules in section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

##### (a) Membership

The Standards Committee will be composed of:

- seven Councillors other than the Mayor and Leader (only one Executive member may be appointed);
- three persons who are not Councillors or officers of the council or any other body having a standards committee (an independent member);
- one Town Council Member.

##### (b) Independent Members

Independent members will be entitled to vote at meetings.

##### (c) Town Council Member

The Town Council member must be present when matters relating to Leigh Town Council or its members are being considered.

##### (d) Chairing the Committee

A member of the Executive may not chair the committee.

##### (e) Quorum

The quorum for a meeting of the Standards Board shall be three members (including one independent member)

#### 9.03 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 and co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives to observe the Members' Code of Conduct in **Part 5(b)**;
- (c) advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct in **Part 5(b)**;
- (d) monitoring the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct in **Part 5(b)**;

- (e)** advising, training or arranging to train Councillors and co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (f)** granting dispensations to Councillors and co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct (NB Regulations are required to be made by the Secretary of State to enable this function to be exercised);
- (g)** dealing with any reports from a case tribunal or interim case tribunal, and any report from the Monitoring Officer on any matter which is referred by an ethical standards officer to the Monitoring Officer.
- (h)** the exercise of (a) to (g) above in relation to Leigh Town Council and the members of Leigh Town Council.
- (i)** overview of internal and external audit;
- (j)** overview of the whistle blowing policy;
- (k)** overview of complaints handling and Ombudsman investigations including on the advice of the Monitoring Officer the exercise of powers under section 92 of the Local Government Act 2000 to make payment or provide some other benefit to persons who have been adversely affected by maladministration by the Council.
- (l)** oversight of the Constitution to ensure probity including commissioning ethical governance audits;
- (m)** overview of reports from the Council's external auditor including public interest reports so far, as they deal with matters of conduct, probity or ethics;
- (n)** oversight of the registers of members' interests and gifts and hospitality.

## **Part 3 – Schedule 2**

### **7. Standards Committee**

#### **7.1 Membership**

7 Members of the Council, other than the Mayor and Leader. Not more than one Executive Councillor can be appointed.

Substitutes: Permitted in accordance with Standing Order 31B  
Proportionality: By convention proportionality shall apply

3 Independent Members

1 Member of Leigh Town Council

#### **7.2 Quorum**

3 (including one independent member)

#### **7.3 Terms of Reference**

These are set out in Article 9 of the Constitution

#### **7.4 Status of Meetings**

Open to the public (in part)

#### **7.5 Reports to**

The Council