

7. STANDARDS COMMITTEE AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose

- 7.1 The Standards Committee is established by the Council under the Local Government Act 1972 to oversee, develop and review the Council’s Code of Conduct for Councillor and the Council’s Arrangements for Dealing with Complaints Against councillors each set out under Part 6 of this Constitution.
- 7.2 In discharging its functions the Standards Committee shall consult with an Independent Person of the Council as required.
- 7.3 The Standards Committee may appoint a sub-committee drawn from its own members to discharge any of its functions.
- 7.4 The Standards Committee has appointed The Standards Committee Hearing Sub-committee (Hearing Sub-committee) to consider and determine complaints against made against a councillor or co-opted member under the Code of Conduct for Councillors, in accordance with the Arrangements for Dealing with Complaints Against Councillors.
- 7.5 The Standards Committee and any sub-committee it appoints shall have regard to the Committee Procedure Rules set out above under Section 2 and all other applicable rules set out under this Constitution.
- 7.6 Hearings of the Hearing Sub-committee shall be conducted in accordance with the Standards Hearing Sub-committee Procedure Rules set out under Section 7.
- 7.7 The membership, chair and quorum requirements for Standards Committee are as set out below in the table immediately below. The membership, chair and quorum requirements for a sub-committee of the Standards Committee and the Hearing Sub-committee are set out in the table at paragraph 7.21 below.

Membership, Chair and Quorum

Number of Members	9 (plus up to 2 non-voting Independent Persons)
Substitute Members Permitted	Yes, subject to completing any required training
Political Proportionality Rules Apply	Yes
Restrictions on Membership	The Mayor and Cabinet Members may not be a member of the Standards Committee
Restrictions on Chair and Vice Chair	Must be a Member of the Committee (not a substitute)

Quorum for Meetings	¼ of total membership subject to a minimum of 3 members
Number of ordinary Meetings Per Council Year	At least two per municipal year
Standing Sub-committee	Standards Hearing Sub-committee

Terms of Reference

- 7.8 The promotion of the highest standards of behaviour by councillors and co-opted members of the Council in accordance with the 'NOLAN Principles' on standards in public life, which are:
- (a) Selflessness;
 - (b) Integrity;
 - (c) Objectivity;
 - (d) Accountability;
 - (e) Openness;
 - (f) Honesty; and
 - (g) Leadership.
- 7.9 Reviewing and developing for the adoption by full Council of the Council's:
- (a) The Constitution;
 - (b) Code of Conduct for Councillors (Code);
 - (c) Arrangements for Dealing with Complaints Against Councillors (Arrangements).
- 7.10 Advising and recommending to Council amendments to the Code or the Arrangements.
- 7.11 Reporting to Council on the implementation of the Code and the Arrangements.
- 7.12 Reporting to Council on the number of complaints made under the Code each municipal year.
- 7.13 Reviewing training requirements and arrangements for councillors and co-opted members on standards, the Code and the Arrangements.
- 7.14 Receiving reports on the registration and declaration of disclosable interests by councillors and co-opted members of the Council.
- 7.15 Receiving reports on the registration of gifts and hospitality by councillors and co-opted member of the Council.

- 7.16 Making recommendations to Council on the appointment of Independent Persons of the Council.
- 7.17 Establishing a Standards Hearing Sub-committee to hear and determine complaints against councillors made under the Code in accordance with the Arrangements where a hearing is required.
- 7.18 Supporting the Monitoring Officer in standards matters.
- 7.19 Considering any other matter referred to it by the Monitoring Officer.
- 7.20 In conjunction with the Monitoring Officer, reviewing the provisions, implementation and effectiveness of the Protocol on Member / Officer Relations and recommending changes to Council for adoption.

Hearing Sub-committee

- 7.21 The membership, chair and quorum requirements of the Hearing Sub-committee are set out in the below table.

Membership, Chair and Quorum

Number of Members	3 Members of the Standards Committee
Substitute Members Permitted	Yes, subject to completing any required training
Political Proportionality Rules Apply	No
Restrictions on Membership	The Mayor and Cabinet Members may not be a member of the Hearing Sub-committee
Restrictions on Chair and Vice Chair	None
Quorum for Meetings	3
Number of Ordinary Meetings Per Council Year	As required

Hearing Sub-committee Terms of Reference

- 7.22 As required under the Arrangements, the Hearing Sub-committee shall consider and determine complaints submitted against councillors and co-opted members under the Code.