

17. Standards Advisory Committee

Summary Description: The Committee performs a number of functions to maintain high standards of conduct in public life including promoting the Members Code of Conduct and considering potential breaches of the Code of Conduct.

The Committee may establish Sub-Committees to consider certain matters as set out in the 'Functions' below.

The Committee and any of its sub-committees may meet in private in accordance with relevant legislation as advised by the Monitoring Officer. Any meeting or part of a meeting that considers whether or not a complaint should be referred for investigation or, following an investigation should proceed to hearing, shall be held in private and all papers relating to that consideration shall remain confidential.

Membership: 5 elected members of the Council (not including the Mayor or more than 1 Cabinet member),

Co-opted Members

Plus up to 5 independent co-opted members.

Co-opted members will be entitled to vote at meetings under the provisions of section 13(4)(e) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The Standards Advisory Committee (SAC) shall be chaired by an independent co-opted member.

Independent Co-opted members shall be appointed by full Council on the recommendation of the Monitoring Officer. The term of appointment shall be 4 years unless otherwise determined by Council. Co-opted members may serve as many terms of appointment as the Council considers appropriate.

Note – Independent Persons

The Council has appointed two statutory Independent Persons to assist in dealing with complaints of alleged breach of the Code of Conduct for Members under section 28(7) of the Localism Act 2011. They are not co-opted member of the SAC but may attend and observe any meeting of the Committee or a sub-committee established by it.

Functions	Delegation of Functions
<p>Full details are set out in the Committee's Procedures in Part D of the Constitution, but in summary:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by the Mayor, councillors and co-opted members of the Council. 2. Advising the Council on the adoption or 	<p>None</p>

<p>revision of the Code of Conduct for Members.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. To monitor and advise the Council about the operation of the Code of Conduct for Members in light of best practice and changes in the law. 4. Advising, training or arranging to train the Mayor, councillors and co-opted members on matters relating to ethics and probity and the Code of Conduct. 5. To appoint sub-committees for the purpose of discharging any of the Committee's functions including the consideration and determination of complaints of breach of the code of Conduct for Members. 6. As requested by the Monitoring Officer, to establish a Dispensations Sub-Committee to advise on any applications for dispensations in relation to participation at a meeting by a member with a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest. 7. To deal with any reports from the Monitoring Officer on any matter relating to standards of conduct. 8. Other functions relating to the standards of conduct of members under any relevant statutory provision or otherwise. 	
<p>Quorum: A meeting of the Standards Advisory Committee or one of its sub-committees shall only be quorate where at least three members of the Committee or Sub-Committee are present for its duration and such quorum must include at least one councillor and at least one independent co-opted member.</p>	
<p>Additional Information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitution Part A, Section 11 (The Standards Advisory Committee and the Code of Conduct for Members) • Constitution Part C, Section 31 (The Code of Conduct for Members) • Constitution Part D, Section 53 (Standards Advisory Committee Procedures) 	