

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Standards Committee will have the following powers and duties:

- (a) promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Councillors, co-opted members and “church” and parent governor representatives;
- (b) assisting Councillors, co-opted members and “church” and parent governor representatives to observe the Members’ Code of Conduct;
- (c) advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members’ Code of Conduct;
- (d) monitoring the operation of the Members’ Code of Conduct;
- (e) developing and recommending local protocols to the Council to supplement the Members’ Code of Conduct;
- (f) enforcing local protocols and applying sanctions in respect of breaches as appropriate;
- (g) advising, training or arranging to train Councillors, co-opted members and “church” and parent governor representatives on matters relating to the Members’ Code of Conduct;
- (h) granting dispensations to Councillors, co-opted members and “church” and parent governor representatives from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members’ Code of Conduct;
- (j) to keep under review and amend, as appropriate, the Protocol on Councillor/Officer Relations;
- (k) to keep under review the Officer Code of Conduct and, after consultation with unions representing staff, make recommendations to Council for amendment or addition;
- (l) to receive reports and keep a general overview of probity matters arising from ombudsman investigations, Monitoring Officer reports, reports of the Chief Financial Officer and Audit Commission;
- (m) to have oversight of the Council’s Whistleblowing Policy;
- (n) to agree the policy for decisions on payments to those adversely affected by Council maladministration (under section 92 Local Government Act 2000)
- (o) To establish sub-committees and working groups to deal with complaints that a member or a co-opted member has failed to comply with the Council’s Code of Conduct
- (p) To consider any application received from any officer of the Authority for exemption from political restriction under Sections 1 and 2 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 in respect of the post held by that officer and may direct the Authority that the post shall not be considered to be a politically restricted post and that the post be removed from the list maintained by the Authority under Section 2(2) of that Act.

- (q) Upon the application of any person or otherwise, consider whether a post should be included in the list maintained by the Authority under Section 2(2) of the 1989 Act, and may direct the Authority to include a post in that list.

Membership rules:

- i. An Elected Mayor or the Leader may not be Members;
- ii. The Chair of the Committee must not be a Member of the Executive;
- iii. Only one member of the Executive can be a member of the Committee;

ASSESSMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

The Assessment Sub-committee has the following powers and duties:

- (a) To receive a referral from the Monitoring Officer in respect of allegations that a member or co-opted member of the Authority has failed, or may have failed, to comply with the Authority's Code of Conduct in circumstances where the Monitoring Officer has not exercised his/her delegation to decide:
 - i. To filter out a complaint as being vexatious and/or outside the Code of Conduct; or
 - ii. To investigate a complaint
- (b) Upon receipt of a referral from the Monitoring Officer, the Sub-Committee shall make an assessment of the allegation and shall decide whether the complaint should be filtered out/an investigation should take place in respect of each allegation in accordance with the terms of the referral.
- (c) To decide whether a complaint shall proceed to the Hearing Sub-Committee in circumstances where the complaint has been investigated and the investigating officer has concluded that the member complained about has not breached the Code of Conduct
- (c) The Sub-Committee shall state its reasons for that decision

HEARING SUB-COMMITTEE

The Hearing Sub-committee has the following powers and duties

- (a) To consider allegations referred to it following investigation that a member or co-opted member has failed to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors
- (d) To determine whether or not there has been a breach of the Code of Conduct taking into account the findings and conclusions of the investigation report.

- (e) If the Sub-Committee decides that there has been a breach of the Code of Conduct, to decide that no sanction should be imposed or to impose one of the following sanctions:
- i. Report its findings to Council for information and place them on the Council's website;
 - ii. Inform the Group Leader (or in the case of an independent member, Council) of its recommendation that a member be removed from any or all Committees or Sub-Committees, or outside body appointments;
 - iii. Inform the Group Leader of any recommendations that the member be removed from the Cabinet, or removed from particular portfolio responsibilities;
 - iv. Remove the member from outside body appointments;
 - v. Instruct the MO to arrange training for the member;
 - vi. Where the breach involves inappropriate use of facilities, withdraw such facilities provided to the member by the Council, such as a computer, website and/or email and internet access; or
 - vii. Exclude the member from the Council's offices or other premises, with the exception of meeting rooms necessary for attending Council, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings; or
 - viii. Censure the member for the breach, in which case the MO will be asked to write to the Member and a press report will be issued.