

**Appendix 3 - Terms of Reference of Council Committees etc
Standards Committee****Functions**

The Standards Committee is responsible for promoting and maintaining high ethical standards at the Council. The Standards Committee is responsible for the following functions:

1. To review and maintain oversight of the Council's ethical framework and procedures and make reports and recommendations accordingly;
2. To review and maintain oversight of the conduct of councillors and co-opted members of the Council and assist them in upholding high ethical standards;
3. To advise Full Council and its Committees on the adoption of a Members' Code of Conduct, codes of practice and protocols relating to ethical governance matters;
4. To hear and consider complaints made against councillors and co-opted members under the Code of Conduct, codes of practice or protocols;
5. To adopt procedures for considering complaints made under the Code of Conduct, codes of practice or protocols;
6. To consider whether to grant applications for dispensation to councillors and co-opted Members, in accordance with Members' Code of Conduct; and
7. To maintain oversight of ethical governance training provided to Members and co-opted members and make reports and recommendations accordingly.

There are two sub-committees of the Standards Committee:

Standards Assessment Sub-Committee

To consider allegations that a member or co-opted member (herein referred to as Subject Member) has failed to comply with the Member's Code of Conduct as may be referred to the Assessment Sub-Committee by the Monitoring Officer to determine whether:

- (a) No further action should be taken because the complaint does not reach the required threshold;
- (b) To refer the complaint for local resolution; or
- (c) To refer the complaint for formal investigation.

Appendix 3

Quorum

The quorum of the Assessment Sub-Committee is three Councillor Members of the Standards Committee in a voting capacity.

Notes:

One or more Co-opted Members of Standards Committee will be invited to attend the Sub-Committee and contribute to the proceedings in a non voting capacity.

The Independent Person to Standards Committee will be invited to attend the Sub-Committee and contribute to the proceedings in a non voting capacity.

Any member of the Standards Committee, against whom a Code of Conduct complaint has been made, shall not be selected as a member of the Assessment Sub-Committee until consideration of their complaint has been concluded.

Where possible the composition of the Assessment Sub-Committee will be politically balanced.

Standards Hearing Sub-Committee

- (a) To conduct hearings into allegations referred for formal investigation into an alleged breach of the Member Code of Conduct, whether initiated by either the Monitoring Officer or the Assessment Sub-Committee, concludes that there have been one or more failures to comply with the Member Code of Conduct and the Monitoring Officer has determined that the matter should be referred to the Hearing Sub-Committee for consideration.
- (b) Where the Hearing Sub-Committee determines that the Subject Member has failed to comply with the Members' Code of Conduct to determine what, if any, lawful sanction should be imposed and where appropriate make recommendations as to sanction to Full Council, the Elected Mayor, Group Leader or other persons.
- (c) In consequence of the hearing and determination of any allegation to make such recommendations to Full Council as the Hearing Sub-Committee considers appropriate having regard to the need to promote and maintain high standards of conduct amongst members.

Quorum

The quorum of the Hearing Sub-Committee is three Councillors who are Members of the Standards Committee in a voting capacity.

Appendix 3

Notes:

One or more Co-opted Members of the Standards Committee will be invited to attend the Sub-Committee and contribute to the proceedings in a non voting capacity.

The Independent Person to Standards Committee will be invited to attend the Sub-Committee and contribute to the proceedings in a non voting capacity.

Any member of the Standards Committee, against whom a Code of Conduct complaint has been made, shall not be selected as a member of the Hearing Sub-Committee until consideration of their complaint has been concluded.

Where possible the composition of the Hearing Sub-Committee will be politically balanced.

Type of Committee

Standards Committee is a non-executive committee established by Full Council to discharge regulatory functions.

Membership

Membership of this Committee is appointed in accordance with political balance at Full Council.

Chairing arrangements

The Chair and Vice Chair of this committee is appointed at Full Council. In the absence of the Chair or Vice Chair, and subject to being quorate, the Committee members can agree who may preside over the meeting based on the number of those present in person.

Quorum and Voting Arrangements

The Quorum for the Standards Committee shall be 3 elected Councillors.

Substitutes

Substitutes to the Committee will be appointed by Full Council for the purposes of establishing a quorum and will have the same voting rights as regular committee members.

Order of Business

Appendix 3

- (a) Receive apologies;
- (b) Receive any declarations of interest from Councillors;
- (c) Approve the minutes of the previous meeting
- (d) Receive questions from, and provide answers to, members of the public on matters covered on the agenda;
- (e) Consider reports as set out in the agenda.
- (f) Consider any items of urgent business.

Who may attend?

Meetings of the Committee will normally be open to the public, unless confidential or exempt information is to be discussed.

Location

This Committee meets at the Council's main offices or any other suitable location.

You can also view meetings online in accordance with the Access to Information Procedure Rules in Part 6, Section C of the Council's Constitution with the Protocol on Recording and Live Streaming Council Meetings set out in Part 6, Section F of the Constitution.

Questions to the Committee

A member of the public who lives, works, or studies in the Borough can ask a question of the Committee with one supplementary question relating to an item on the agenda.

A Councillor may ask a question of the Committee with one supplementary question relating to an item on the agenda.

The total amount of time for questions with notice at the Committee will be no more than 15 minutes.

If the Chair agrees, a member of the public can ask a question at the Committee without having given notice. If a question without notice is asked, the Chair will explain that it might not be possible to give a full answer at the meeting and that a written response will be provided.

Frequency of meetings

The Committee meets on dates set out in the Council's meetings calendar.

Appendix 3

Papers and Notice

The agenda and any papers for the Committee will be issued at least 5 working days in advance of the meeting, except in the case of matters of urgency.

Review

The terms of reference will be reviewed on an annual basis, or as necessary, to support the functions and objectives of this Committee. Updates to the terms of reference will be agreed annually at the Committee's first meeting of the municipal year.

Last reviewed: Date xxx