

Article 9 The Standards Committee

9.01 Standards Committee

The Council has appointed a Standards Committee with the following membership, working arrangements and terms of reference.

9.02 Composition

(a) Membership

The Standards Committee has 9 members made up as follows :-

- i. 5 'independent' members who are not elected members of the Council .
- ii. 3 County Councillors;
- iii. 1 member of a community council in the area called a 'community committee member'

(b) Terms of Office.

- i. Independent members are appointed for a period of 6 years and may not be reappointed.
- ii. Members of the local authority who are members of the standards committee will serve until the next ordinary local government election following their appointment. They may be re-appointed for 1 further consecutive term.

(c) Quorum.

A meeting of the standards committee shall only be quorate when:

- i. at least three members, including the chair, are present, and
- ii. at least half the members present (including the chair) are independent members

(d) Voting

Independent members and community committee members are entitled to vote at meetings;

(e) Community committee members.

A community committee member shall not take part in the proceedings of the standards committee when any matter relating to his/her community council is being considered;

(f) Chairing the Committee

- i. Only an independent member of the standards committee may be the chair.
- ii. The chair and vice-chair will be elected by the members of the standards committee for a period of 4 years .The chair and the vice chair can be appointed for one period only.

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, 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) 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
- (f) 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
- (g) dealing with any reports from a case tribunal or interim case tribunal, and any report from the monitoring officer on any matter referred to that officer by the Local Commissioner in Wales.
- (h) the exercise of (a) to (g) above in relation to the community councils wholly or mainly in its area and the members of those community councils
- (i) to receive annual reports on the operation of the Council's complaints procedure and the whistle-blowing policy with a view to incorporating references to those matters in the Committee's Annual Report