

## **Article 8 - The Standards And Audit Committee**

### **8.01 Standards Committee**

The Council will appoint a standards committee in accordance with the Localism Act 2011. The Committee will also have responsibilities for the oversight of the internal audit function and of the Council's systems of internal control as set out in 8.03, and will be known as the Standards and Audit Committee. It will be politically balanced.

### **8.02 Composition**

The Standards and Audit Committee will be composed of ten Councillors.

Full Council will appoint independent persons who can be consulted when issues concerning conduct arise.

### **8.03 Role and Function**

The Standards and Audit Committee will have the following roles and functions:

- (a) promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Councillors and co-opted Members;
- (b) assisting the Councillors and co-opted Members 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 and co-opted Members on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (f) granting those dispensations to Councillors and co-opted Members from certain requirements relating to interests arising under the Members' Code of Conduct which are not delegated to the Monitoring Officer to determine, in accordance with the relevant legislation and in consultation with the Independent persons.
- (g) considering appeals by Councillors and co-opted Members, where no dispensation has been granted by the Monitoring Officer;
- (h) assessing and considering complaints about the conduct of Councillors, and co-opted Members which are not determined by the Monitoring Officer under delegated authority, in the manner required by law and in accordance with the procedures in force;
- (i) dealing with any reports from the Monitoring Officer on any matter referred to the Monitoring Officer; including complaints about the Council;
- (j) taking an overview of Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman investigations and considering their outcomes where appropriate;

- (k) determining appeals against dismissal and grievances (including salary gradings) by employees of the Council (via the Standards and Audit Sub-Committee);
- (l) considering matters arising from internal audit and control reports;
- (m) considering the Council's corporate systems and controls, compliance with legislation and control procedures,
- (n) in relation to risk management oversight of all risk analysis and risk assessment, risk response, and risk monitoring including:
  - the establishment of risk management across the organisation, including partnerships;
  - awareness of the Council's risk appetite and tolerance;
  - reviewing the risk portfolio;
  - being appraised of the most significant risks;
  - determining whether management's response to risk and changes in risk are appropriate.
- (o) considering the scope of internal audit activity;
- (p) considering such matters arising from external audit as may be referred to it by the external auditor;
- (q) recommend appointment of external auditors;
- (r) to recommend to Council individuals suitable for appointment as Independent Persons;
- (s) determining the expenses and allowances of the Independent Persons following their initial determination by the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Chairman of this Committee.
- (t) taking an oversight of the Council's Complaints Policy, and associated Procedures and Key Performance Indicators

#### 8.04 Hearings

All hearings and assessments of complaints against Members will be conducted in accordance with the current legal requirements and (subject to that) the provisions set out in the Administrative and Procedural Standing Orders in Part 4 of this Constitution.