

**Article 9 – The Standards Committee**

**9.01 Standards Committee**

The Council will determine the composition of and the role and function of the Standards Committee.

**9.02 Composition**

(a) **Membership.** The Standards Committee will be composed of:-

- six councillors [other than the leader, and with a maximum of one member from the Executive];
- three independent people **Appointees** who are not councillors or an officer of the Council or any other public body having a Standards Committee, their term of office to be up to four years and be eligible to continue for further terms;
- three members of a Town or Parish Council in the Council's area who cannot also be a District Councillor, to be appointed until the next full Town and Parish Council elections.

(b) **Independent members**~~Appointees~~. Independent ~~members~~~~Appointees~~ will be entitled to vote at meetings. **Independent Appointees will be appointed in a staggered term of office with one pair being appointed in the first year of a Council term and the third appointee in the third year of a Council term.**

(c) **Town and Parish members.** One **or more** Town or Parish member must be present when matters relating to Town or Parish Councils or their members are being considered, except where they have an interest; and

(d) **Chairing the Committee.** The Chairman **and Vice-Chairman** of the Committee shall be an ~~Independent Member~~ **Appointees**. A member of the Executive may not chair the Committee.

**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 and co-opted members;
- (b) assisting the councillors and co-opted members to observe the Members' Code of Conduct;

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- (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 dispensations to councillors and co-opted members from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (g) receiving and assessing complaints received concerning the conduct of Waverley Borough members and the investigation and determination as appropriate or the referral to the Standards Board for England for assessment, investigation and determination;
- (h) the exercise of (a) to (g) above in relation to the town and parish councils in Waverley Borough and the members of those town and parish councils;
- (i) to receive, assess, investigate and determine complaints referred to the Standards Board for England in accordance with (g) above that are referred back to the Standards Committee by the Standards Board for England; and
- (j) to provide information required by the Standards Board for England regarding complaints about member conduct;
- (k) in the event of a dispute arising from a breach of the Council's Local Protocols, the Standards Committee should use the same Investigation and Determination processes as for statutory Local Determinations;
- (l) providing an advisory role to the Constitution SIG in matters pertaining to the Constitution.

### 9.04 **Section 66 Regulations: Standards Committee Local Determinations**

- (a) **Appointment of sub-committees:** the Standards Committee appoint sub-committees of no less than 3 members for the process of assessment through to determination of complaints received regarding member conduct that may have breached the Code of Conduct in accordance with the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008. The sub-committees will have the power to determine complaints without further reference to the Standards Committee;
- (b) **Sub-committee membership:** the Chairman of the Standards Committee be authorised to determine the membership of the sub-committees at the appropriate time, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, should there be reason to vary the membership from that agreed by the Council;

- (c) **Composition of sub-committees:** the number of members appointed to the sub-committees to be dependent on the individual circumstances of the case, to be chaired by an independent member and to include at least one Town/Parish representative for Town/Parish issues and at least one Waverley representative for a Waverley related issue, to be drawn from the membership of the Standards Committee as a whole at the appropriate time.

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