

## **Article 8 – The Standards Committee**

### **8.01 Form and Composition**

The Council will establish a Standards Committee. The functions of this Committee are set out below.

#### **(a) Membership**

The Standards Committee will be composed of 11 members:

- (i) three Councillors including the Chairman of the Council, being two Members from the majority party and one Member from the minority party (District Council Members);
- (ii) five people who are not Councillors or Officers of the Council or on any other body having a Standards Committee, one of which shall Chair the Committee (Independent Members);
- (iii) three members of Parish Councils wholly or mainly in the Council's District nominated by the Derbyshire Association of Local Councils (Parish Members).

#### **(b) Independent Members**

Independent Members will be entitled to vote at meetings.

#### **(c) Parish Members**

At least one Parish Member must be present when matters relating to Parish Councils or their members are being considered.

#### **(d) Quorum**

The quorum of a meeting will be 3 (including at least 1 District Council Member and 2 Independent Members) and where Parish Council business is being discussed the quorum shall be 4 (which in addition to the above must include at least 1 Parish Member).

#### **(e) Sub-Committees**

The following Standards Sub-Committees have been created:

- Initial Assessment
- Review
- Hearing

The Terms of Reference of each Sub-Committee are set out in Article 8A.

### **8.02 Role and Function**

The Standards Committee will discharge the general and specific functions as specified in Section 54 of the Local Government Act 2000 (and elsewhere in Part III of the Act), including the following roles and functions:

- (a) to advise Full Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct and any other Codes and Protocols as necessary;
- (b) to promote and maintain high standards of conduct for Councillors and Co-opted Members;
- (c) to assist the Councillors and Co-opted Members to observe the Members' Code of Conduct set out in Part 5 of this Constitution;
- (d) to monitor the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (e) to advise, and to provide or arrange for training for Councillors and Co-opted Members on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (f) to consider whether, in all the relevant circumstances, to grant dispensations to Councillors and Co-opted Members relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (g) to deal with any reports from a case tribunal or interim case tribunal, and any report from the Monitoring Officer on any matter which is referred by an Ethical Standards Officer of the Standards Board for England to the Monitoring Officer;
- (h) to assess all written complaints alleging a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct against a Councillor or Co-opted Member, review such decisions and hear and determine any allegations;
- (i) to receive reports from the Sub-Committees in relation to the Assessment, Review and Consideration hearings and determination of any allegations and to consider whether any further recommendations need to be made to the District or Parish Council;
- (j) to monitor the operation of the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance on a half-yearly basis in conjunction with the Audit Sub-Committee and report findings and make recommendations to Full Council;
- (k) to deal with any reports from the Monitoring Officer or the Director of Corporate Services on matters relating to probity issues;
- (l) to exercise (b) to (h) above in relation to the Parish Councils wholly or mainly in its District and the members of those Parish Councils.
- (m) to discharge such other functions, either general or specific, as Full Council may from time to time allocate to the Committee.