

Section 20

Standards Committee

20.1 Status

The Standards Committee is a standing committee of the Council with the purpose of determining standards to be observed by Members.

20.2 Membership and Method of Appointment

The Committee will comprise no more than 7 Members appointed by the Council in accordance with Section 15 and Schedule 1 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 concerning Political Balance.

The Standards Committee may not include the Leader of the Cabinet.

The Council will appoint 8 representatives of the Parish/Town Councils within the District to serve on the Committee as non-voting members.

The Independent Person and any reserve Independent Person may attend any meeting of the Committee as a non-voting member.

No more than one member of the Standards Committee may be a member of Cabinet.

The Standards Committee may appoint Sub-Committees hearings panels.

20.3 Chair and Vice-Chair

The Chair and Vice-Chair will be appointed by the Council and shall not be members of the Cabinet.

20.4 Attendance by Councillors Who Are Not Members of the Committee

Any Member of the Council may attend meetings of the Committee except when it is considering confidential business.

20.5 Frequency of Meetings

Meetings of the Committee will be held in accordance with the schedule of meetings agreed by the Council and other arrangements regarding the calling of meetings.

20.6 Agenda

Prior to the meeting of the Committee, the Monitoring Officer will circulate to all Members of the Committee (and Parish/Town Council representatives), the Agenda and Reports to be considered.

20.7 Proceedings

The Managing Director (or nominee) shall be the Clerk to the Committee.

The provisions of Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, will apply where appropriate.

No Parish/Town Council matter may be discussed unless a Parish representative is present.

20.8 Functions

To undertake the following functions:

- (a) To promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members and co-opted Members.
- (b) To assist Members and co-opted Members to observe the Council's codes of conduct.
- (c) To advise Council on the adoption or revision of its code of conduct for Members.
- (d) To advise, train or arrange to train Members and co-opted Members on matters relating to the Council's codes of conduct.
- (e) To monitor the operation of the Council's codes of conduct.
- (f) If requested, consider whether to grant dispensations in relation to a District Councillor or Councillors with a pecuniary interest in a matter proposed for discussion.
- (g) Hold hearings into complaints against Councillors and former Councillors of the District and Parish/Town Councils relating to potential breaches of the Code of Conduct which are referred to it.

To deal with any other matter referred to it by Council or the Monitoring Officer.

20.9 Delegated Powers

The Committee is empowered to deal with any of the functions detailed above.

The Committee is empowered to determine and amend its own procedures for dealing with complaints and holding hearings.