

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

1. To oversee and promote the Council's arrangements to ensure and maintain probity and the highest standards of governance in the conduct of business by members (including co-opted members) and officers.
2. To oversee and advise full Council and Cabinet on matters relating to the Council's corporate governance and ethical framework.
3. To receive the Council's annual Corporate Governance Review Statement.
4. To oversee, promote, monitor observance and recommend necessary change to Members' and officers' Codes of Conduct and Political Conventions.
5. To oversee and ensure the provision of appropriate training to Members and officers to enable them to adhere at all times to the provisions of the Council's Political Conventions and governance arrangements.
6. In accordance with the relevant legislation and associated Guidance, to hear and determine any allegation that a Member of the Council has failed, or may have failed, to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct.
7. To oversee the process and, through its Sub-Committees, initially assess and review as necessary written allegations submitted to the Council that an Elected or Co-opted Member of the Council has failed or may have failed to comply with the City Council's Code of Conduct for Members.
8. In the event of there being a local investigation of an allegation, to decide, with reasons, the outcome of the investigation and to exercise its powers and sanctions.
9. To consider under Sections 1 and 2 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989:-
 - (a) any application received from any officer of the Council for exemption from political restriction in respect of the post held by that officer and may direct the Council that the post shall not be considered to be a politically restricted post and that the post be removed from the list maintained by the Council under Section 2(2) of that Act; and,
 - (b) upon the application of any person or otherwise, consider whether a post should be included in the list maintained by the Council under Section 2(2) of the 1989 Act, and may direct the Council to include a post in that list.

Matters Reserved to the Committee:

1. All matters of significance are reserved to the Committee save as set out in the Terms of Reference of its established Sub-Committees.
2. All matters within the Terms of Reference of the Standards Committee which are not reserved to full Council or this Committee, either by legislation, regulation or local determination, are delegated to the Town Clerk.

STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE (INITIAL ASSESSMENT)

Terms of Reference.

1. In accordance with the relevant legislation and associated Guidance, the Sub-Committee is empowered to initially assess and decide upon all written complaints received by the Council's Monitoring Officer which allege that an Elected or Co-opted Member of the Council has failed or may have failed to comply with the City Council's Code of Conduct for Members.
2. To authorise the Monitoring Officer to take all reasonable steps to implement its decision(s), with reasons, and to notify the person making the allegation and the Member concerned of that decision.
3. In the event of there being a local investigation, the Standards Sub-Committee (Initial Assessment) shall determine, with reasons, whether:-
 - (i) it accepts the Monitoring Officer's finding of no failure to observe the Code of Conduct;
 - (ii) the matter should be referred for a hearing of the Standards Committee; or,
 - (iii) the matter should be referred to the Adjudication Panel for determination.
4. Composition – The Standards Sub-Committee (Initial Assessment) shall comprise of 4 Members, one of whom shall be an Independent Member of the Standards Committee (who will also Chair the Sub-Committee), and three Elected Members of the Council. Although not required by law, the Sub-Committee will, wherever possible, reflect the political balance of the Council. Where a Sub-Committee consists of four members and there is no consensus or majority decision the Chair will exercise the casting vote.
5. Quorum – The quorum for a meeting of the Standards Sub-Committee (Initial Assessment) shall be 3 Members (with an Independent Member as Chair).
6. Frequency of Meetings –The Standards Sub-Committee (Initial Assessment) will meet as and when required necessary to initially assess any allegation received.

STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE (REVIEW)

Terms of Reference

1. In accordance with the relevant legislation and -associated Guidance, to review, as necessary, ~~any~~ decision by the Standards Sub-Committee (Initial Assessment) to take no further action on a complaint against an Elected or Co-opted Member of the Council.taken at a Hearing of the Standards Committee.
2. Composition – The Standards Sub-Committee (Review) shall comprise of 4 Members of the Standards Committee. One of the Members of the Standards Sub-Committee (Review) shall be an Independent Member of the Standards Committee (and Chair of the Sub-Committee). Although not required by law, the Sub-Committee will, wherever possible, reflect the political balance of the Council. Where a Sub-Committee consists of four members and there is no consensus or majority decision the Chair will exercise the casting vote.
3. Quorum – The quorum for a meeting of the Standards Sub-Committee (Review) shall be 3 Members (with an Independent Member as Chair of the Sub-Committee) and at least one Elected Member of the Council.
4. Frequency of Meetings – The Standards Sub-Committee (Review) shall meet as and when required to hear and review, as necessary, any decisions made against an Elected or Co-opted Member of the Council.