

Standards Committee

Composition

1. Membership of the Standards Committee

- 1.1. The Standards Committee shall comprise nine Members of the Council
- 1.2. The Chairman and Vice Chairman shall be appointed by the Council in accordance with the Council's Procedure rules in Part 4 of the Constitution.
- 1.3. The Standards Committee may co-opt up to two parish / town council representatives from a parish/town council in the Borough

2. Membership of Sub-committees of the Standards Committee

- 2.1. The Standards Committee shall appoint sub-committees of three members to deal with specific standards complaints
- 2.2. Sub-committees will consult (where co-opted) parish / town councillors on decisions relating to town or parish councillors

3. Quorum for the Standards Committee and its sub-committees:

- 3.1. **Three** members for the duration of the meeting.

4. Roles and functions of the Standards Committee

- 4.1. To promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Councillors and co-opted Members;
- 4.2. To assist Councillors and co-opted Members to observe the Members' Code of Conduct;
- 4.3. To advise the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct, and on matters relating to the ethical conduct of the Council and its Members;
- 4.4. To advise and train Councillors and co-opted Members on matters relating to the Code of Conduct;
- 4.5. To grant dispensations to Borough Councillors (and where relevant, co-opted Members to the Borough Council) from requirements relating to Disclosable Pecuniary interests in the following circumstances:

- 4.5.1. Where so many members of the decision-making body have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest that Political Balance would be affected
 - 4.5.2. It is in the interests of the inhabitants that a dispensation be granted, or
 - 4.5.3. It is appropriate to grant a dispensation
- 4.6. The Monitoring Officer can grant dispensations where so many members have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest that it would impede the transaction of the business of the Council
 - 4.7. The Monitoring Officer (in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman) or the Standards Sub-committee can grant dispensations in cases 4.5.1 – 4.5.3 where it would not be expedient to wait until the next scheduled Standards Committee meeting
 - 4.8. To consult the Independent Person(s) in accordance with the Dealing with Complaints (standards) Policy and Hearing Policy.
 - 4.9. To be responsible for the Dealing with Complaints (Standards) Policy and Hearing Policy.
 - 4.10. To consider complaints alleging a breach of the Code of Conduct by Borough Councillors (and any co-opted members where relevant) and those members of town and parish councils in the Borough of West Devon.
 - 4.11. To receive Investigation reports and to carry out hearings (including sanctions) in respect of allegations of misconduct for Borough members (and co-opted members where relevant) and town/parish council members and to recommend sanctions or other recommendations/actions

5. Roles and functions of the Standards sub-committees

- 5.1. To consider complaints alleging members' breach of the Code of Conduct; as referred by the Monitoring Officer
- 5.2. To receive investigation reports and carry out Hearings (including sanctions) in respect of allegations of misconduct

Budget

To have authority for spending within the allocated budget.