

Standards Committee

Composition

1. Membership of the Standards Committee

1.1. The Standards Committee shall comprise five 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 in accordance with the Dealing with (Standards) Complaints Policy and Hearing Policy

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 Policy and Hearing Policy.

4.9. To be responsible for the Dealing with Complaints 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 as referred by the Monitoring Officer.

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 consideration of sanctions or other actions) in respect of allegations of misconduct

Budget

To have authority for spending within the allocated budget.

