

## **Article 9 - The Standards Committee**

### **1 Standards Committee**

The Council will establish a Standards Committee in accordance with the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001 ('The Regulations').

### **2 Political Balance**

Standards Committees do not have to comply with the Political Balance Rules in Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

### **3 Membership**

The Standards Committee will compose of nine (9) Members:

- a) Five (5) 'Independent' Members. Independent Members are not Councillors or Officers or the spouse of a Councillor or an Officer of this Council or any other relevant Authority as defined by the Regulations. They shall be appointed in accordance with the Regulations.
- b) Three (3) Councillors of the City and County of Swansea appointed by Council.
- c) One (1) Community / Town Councillor from within the boundaries of the City and County of Swansea appointed by Council.

### **4 Term of Office**

- a) Independent Members are appointed for a period of not less than four and not more than six years and may be re-appointed for one further consecutive term;
- b) Members of the Local Authority who are members of the Standards Committee will have a term of office the next ordinary local government election following their appointment. They may be re-appointed for one further consecutive term.
- c) Community / Town Councillors. The term of office shall be until the Ordinary Election for the Community Council of which the Community Councillor is a member. They may be re-appointed for one further consecutive term.

### **5 Voting**

All nine (9) members of the Standards Committee are entitled to vote.

### **6 Community / Town Council Members**

A Community / Town Council member shall not take part in the proceedings of the Standards Committee when any matters relating to their Community / Town Council is being considered.

## **7 Chairing the Committee**

Only an Independent Member of the Standards Committee may be the Chair.

The Members of the Standards Committee will elect the Chair.

The Chair can be removed by a resolution of two thirds of the members of the Committee.

## **8 Role and Function**

- a) The Standards Committee will have the following roles and functions:
- i) Promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Councillors, Community / Town Councillors and Statutory Co-optees;
  - ii) Assisting the Councillors, Community / Town Councillors and Statutory Co-optees to observe the Members' Code of Conduct;
  - iii) Advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct;
  - iv) Monitoring the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct;
  - v) Advising, training or arranging to train Councillors, Community / Town Councillors and Statutory Co-optees on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct;
  - vi) Producing an annual report to Council describing how the Committee's functions have been discharged during the financial year;
  - vii) Monitoring compliance by political group leaders with their duties under s 52A(1) Local Government Act 2000;
  - viii) Undertaking those functions in relation to Community Councils and members of Community Councils in the area of City and County of Swansea as are required by law;
  - ix) Granting dispensations to Councillors, Community / Town Councillors and Statutory Co-optees from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct;
  - x) Considering allegations of breaches of the Code of Conduct made against Members in accordance with the Standards Committee Hearing Procedure set out in the Constitution;
  - xi) Determining requests for representation in proceedings under the Council's Indemnity Scheme for Members and Officers;
  - xii) Dealing with any reports from the Monitoring Officer on any matter;
  - xiii) To consider all appeals relating to the Unreasonable Customer Behaviour Policy.
- b) The Standards Committees will also undertake roles, for ethical audit purposes, including:
- i) Overview of the Whistleblowing Policy;
  - ii) The Protocol of Officer/Councillor Relations;
  - iii) The Member/Member Dispute Resolution Process;
  - iv) The Register of Members' Interests.
- c) The Procedure for investigating complaints is determined by the Standards Committee, and may be amended by the Committee at any time.

## **9 Joint Standards Committee**

The Council may establish a joint standards committee with one or more local authorities for the purpose of discharging the statutory functions of the Standards Committee.