

Article 9 The Standards Committee

9.1 Standards Committee

The Council has a Standards Committee with the following membership, working arrangements and terms of reference.

9.2 Composition

(a) Membership

The Standards Committee has 9 members made up as follows:

- i. 5 'independent' members who are not elected members of the Council;
- ii. 3 County Councillors;
- iii. 1 member of a community council in the area called a 'community committee member.

(b) Terms of Office

- i. Independent members are initially appointed for a period of 4 to 6 years and may be reappointed for a further period of up to 4 years.
- ii. Members of the local authority who are members of the standards committee will serve until the next ordinary local government election following their appointment. They may be re-appointed for 1 further consecutive term.

(c) Quorum

A meeting of the Standards Committee shall only be quorate when:

- i. at least three members, including the chair, are present; and
- ii. at least half the members present (including the chair) are independent members.

(d) Voting

Independent members and community committee members are entitled to vote at meetings.

(e) Community committee member

A community committee member shall not take part in the proceedings of the standards committee when any matter relating to his/her community council is being considered.

(f) Chairing the Committee

- i. Only an independent member of the standards committee may be the chair or vice-chair.
- ii. The chair and vice-chair will be elected by the members of the standards committee for a period of between 4 and 6 years .The chair and the vice chair can be re-appointed for one further period of up to 4 years.

9.3 Role and Function

The Standards Committee has the following functions:

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| (a) | To promote and maintain high standards of conduct by councillors, co-opted members. |
| (b) | To assist councillors and co-opted members to observe the Members' Code of Conduct. |
| (c) | To advise the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct. |
| (d) | To monitor the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct. |
| (e) | To advise, or arrange training for councillors and co-opted members on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct. |
| (f) | To grant dispensations to councillors and co-opted members where the councillor or co-opted member has a personal and prejudicial interest under the Members' Code of Conduct, subject to legal requirements. |
| (g) | To deal with any reports from the Adjudication Panel for Wales, a case tribunal or interim case tribunal established by the Adjudication Panel, any report from the monitoring officer on any matter referred to that officer by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales, or a report from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales. |
| (h) | The exercise of (a) to (g) above in relation to the community and town councils wholly or mainly in its area and the members of those community and town councils. |
| (i) | To receive annual reports on the operation of the Council's complaints procedure and the whistle-blowing policy with a view to incorporating references to those matters in the Committee's Annual Report to Council. |
| (j) | To present an Annual Report to full Council. |
| (k) | monitoring compliance by leaders of political groups on the council with their duties under section 52A(1) of the Local Government Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and advising, training or arranging to train leaders of political groups on the council about matters relating to those duties. (Coming into force 5 th May 2022) |