

Article 9: The Standards Committee

9.1 Standards Committee

The council will appoint a Standards Committee.

9.2 Composition

a) Membership

~~• chosen to exercise an executive function of the council him/herself; and
• a conflict of interest arises in respect of any matter to be dealt with by the City Mayor in the course of exercising that executive function:
The City Mayor will arrange for the executive function to be delegated to another person or body who does not have a conflict of interest in order for that other person or body to deal with the matter.~~

The Standards Committee will be composed as follows:

- Eight councillors allocated to the political groups on the council in accordance with the principles of political balance.
- Two co-opted independent members, who are not councillors

b) Co-opted Independent Members

- Co-opted independent members will not be entitled to vote at meetings.

c) Chairing the Committee

The Council will appoint one of the co-opted independent members as Chair of the committee. In the absence of the appointed Chair, the committee will be chaired by the other independent member (if any and if present), and subject to d) below in the absence of any both independent member(s) will be chaired as determined by the committee. Provided that where the matters referred to in Article 9.3 f), g), h) and i) are under consideration an Independent Member of the Committee must act as Chair.

d) Quorum

The quorum for the Standards Committee shall be three voting members plus where the matters referred to in Article 9.3 f), g), h) and i) are under consideration an Independent Member of the Committee. ~~and the chair.~~

9.3 Role and Functions

The council has delegated to the Standards Committee the following powers to deal with matters of conduct and ethical standards, and the council's Standards Committee has the following role and functions:

- a). Promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by the City Mayor, councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives.
- b). Assisting the City Mayor, councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives to observe the council's Code of Conduct for Members.
- c). Advising the council on the adoption, revision or replacement of the council's Code of Conduct for Members and the council's Arrangements for dealing with Complaints that council Members have failed to comply with the council's Code of Conduct for Members ('the council's Arrangements').
- d). Monitoring the operation of the council's Code of Conduct for Members and the council's Arrangements.
- e). Advising, training or arranging to train the City Mayor, councillors and co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives on matters relating to the council's Code of Conduct for Members and other issues relating to Standards and Conduct.
- f). To determine in accordance with the council's Arrangements whether the City Mayor or a council member has failed to comply with the council's Code of Conduct for members and, if so, to determine what action (if any) to take.
- g). To delegate such of the council's powers as can be delegated to take decisions in respect of a council Member (including the City Mayor) who is found on a hearing held in accordance with the council's Arrangements to have failed to comply with the council's Code of Conduct for Members ('the Subject Member'), such actions to include:
 - i. Publication of the findings of the Standards (Hearing) Sub-Committee in respect of the Subject Member's conduct.
 - ii. Reporting the findings of the Standards (Hearing) Sub-Committee to council for information.
 - iii. Recommendation to council that the Subject Member should be censured.
 - iv. Recommendation to the Subject Member's Group Leader (or in the case of ungrouped members to council) that the Subject Member should be removed from any or all Committees or Sub-Committees of the council for a recommended period.
 - v. Recommendation to the City Mayor that the Subject Member should be removed from the Cabinet, or removed from their Portfolio responsibilities.

- vi. Instructing the Monitoring Officer to arrange training for the Subject Member.
- vii. Recommendation to council that the Subject Member should be removed from all appointments to which the Subject Member has been appointed or nominated by the council.
- viii. Withdrawal of facilities provided to the Subject Member by the council, such as a computer, website and/or e-mail and Internet access.
- ix. Placing such restrictions on the Subject Member's access to council staff, buildings or parts of buildings as may be reasonable in the circumstances.

h). grant dispensations from section 31(4) of the Localism Act 2011 (after consultation with one of the council's Independent Persons) if having had regard to all relevant circumstances, the Standards Committee:

- o considers that granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the council's area, or
- o considers that it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.

i). To determine appeals against the Monitoring Officer's decision on the grant of dispensations.

j). To consider and monitor the following reports:

(i) Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Decisions and Annual reviews letters

(ii) Corporate Governance reports as appropriate.