

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

(Part 7 (Regulatory and Other Committee Rules of Procedure) also refers)

### **2.9.1 Composition**

The Standards Committee will be composed of six District Councillors, only one of whom may be a Member of the Executive; this cannot include the Executive Leader; together with two co-opted Parish Representatives.

### **2.9.2 Advisory Panel**

The Standards Committee shall be supported by an Advisory Panel of eight members comprising 2 members of the administration, 2 members of the opposition, 2 parish council representatives and 2 independent members (who shall not be Independent Persons)

The Advisory Panel shall be responsible for dealing with complaints where evidence of breach of the Code has been identified and shall report its findings to Standards Committee for formal decision.

The Advisory Panel shall be chaired by an Independent Member.

### **2.9.3 Independent Person(s)**

An Independent Person(s) shall be appointed by the Council and shall be consulted by it before any decision is made to investigate an allegation against any member of the Council. The Independent Person may be consulted by any member or Parish Council member against whom an allegation is made. The Independent Person(s) shall not chair the Standards Committee or be entitled to vote on matters before it.

In addition The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 include provisions requiring a panel to be set up to advise on matters relating to the dismissal of the Council's Proper Officers (Head of Paid Service, S151 Officer and Monitoring Officer). The Act requires at least two Independent Persons who have been appointed under section 28(7) of the Localism Act 2011 to be appointed to the panel.

### **2.9.4 Role and Function**

The Standards Committee will have the following roles and functions:

- (a) promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Councillors and co-opted Members;
- (b) assisting the Councillors and co-opted Members, to observe the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (c) advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (d) monitoring the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (e) advising, training or arranging to train Councillors and co-opted Members on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct;

- (f) granting dispensations to Councillors and co-opted Members on requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (g) ensuring arrangements are in place under which allegations of misconduct in respect of the members' Code of Conduct can be investigated and to review such arrangements appropriately;
- (h) the exercise of (a) to (g) above in relation to the Parish / Town Councils wholly or mainly in its area and the Members of those Parish / Town Councils;