

Article 9 – The Standards Committee

9.01 Standards Committee

The Council meeting will establish a Standards Committee.

9.02 Composition

The Standards Committee will be composed of eight members of the Council and two non-voting co-opted members nominated by Hetton Town Council.

9.03 Quorum

The quorum for the Standards Committee shall be two voting members.

9.04 Role and Function

The Standards Committee will discharge all the legal responsibilities imposed upon it and will have the following roles and functions:

- (a) to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by councillors and co-opted members;
- (b) to assist the 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, train or arrange to train councillors and co-opted members on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (f) to grant dispensations to councillors and co-opted members from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct, so far as not delegated to the Monitoring Officer;
- (g) to assist and advise Hetton Town Council, if requested and as appropriate, in relation to the discharge of functions (a) to (f) above;
- (h) to deal with written allegations that a councillor or co-opted member (or former councillor or co-opted member) of the Council or Hetton Town Council has failed, or may have failed, to comply with the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (i) to deal with complaints that a councillor or co-opted member has failed, or may have failed, to comply with one of the Council's local protocols;

- (j) to adopt and amend procedures to be followed for investigations and local determination of complaints;
- (k) to monitor the operation of the Council's Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy so far as it relates to the actions of Members of the Council;
- (l) to consider reports of the Monitoring Officer and of the Local Government Ombudsman where they concern the conduct of Members of the Council;
- (m) to support the Monitoring Officer in his/her role.
- (n) to report on the above matters of the Council.

9.05 Standards Committee Sub-Committees or Panels

Sub-Committees or Panels may be convened from within the membership of the Standards Committee in order to deal with any aspect of a complaint that a Councillor has breached the Members' Code of Conduct.

Such Sub-Committees or Panels shall be convened by the Head of Law and Governance and shall comprise of three voting members. In addition, one of the Hetton Town Council co-opted members may be invited to participate in a meeting of any such Panel in an advisory capacity, provided they do not have a conflict of interest in the complaint.