

# Constitution



## Part 2: Articles of the Constitution

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### Article 9: The Standards Committee

#### 9.1 Standards Committee

The Council will establish a Standards Committee.

#### 9.2 Composition

##### 9.2.1 Membership

The Standards Committee will be composed of a maximum of nine members. Its membership will include:

- five 'independent' members, who are not either a councillor or an officer or the spouse of a councillor or an officer of this Council or any other relevant authority as defined by the Local Government Act 2000, appointed in accordance with the procedure set out in the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001;
- Three Councillors other than the Leader and not more than one member of the Cabinet. The political balance provisions as set out in paragraph 15 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 shall not apply.
- One member of a Community Council wholly or mainly in the Council's area (a 'community committee member') nominated by the Community Councils in the area (who is not a member of the local authority).

##### 9.2.2 Term of Office

Independent members are appointed for a period of four years. In accordance with the Standards Committees (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 independent Members of Standards Committee can be re-elected for a second term of office. They can be re-elected as Chair during this period.

Members of the local authority who are members of the Standards Committee will have a term of office of not more than four years or until the next local government election following their appointment, whichever is the shorter. Such a member shall cease to be a member of the Standards Committee if that member ceases to be a member of the Council. They may be reappointed for a further consecutive term.

##### 9.2.3 Quorum

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

- at least three members including the Chairperson are present, and

- At least half the members present, including the Chairperson, are independent members. The community committee member is not independent for these purposes.

### **9.2.4 Voting**

Independent members and community committee members will be entitled to vote at the meetings. Any question shall be decided by a majority of votes cast and, in the case of an equality of votes, the person presiding at the meeting shall have a second and casting vote.

### **9.2.5 Community committee members**

A community committee member shall not take part in the proceedings of the Standards Committee when any matter relating to their community council is being considered.

### **9.2.6 Chairing the Committee**

- Only an independent member of the Standards Committee may be the chairperson or vice-chairperson. The community committee member is not independent for these purposes.
- The members of the Standards Committee will elect the chairperson and vice-chairperson for a period not exceeding one year. The chairperson and vice-chairperson are eligible for re-election.
- The election of a chairperson and vice-chairperson will be the first item of business for the first meeting of Standards Committee.
- The chairperson shall preside at meetings of the Standards Committee and if that person is absent, the vice-chairperson shall preside. If both the chairperson and vice-chairperson are absent, the members present shall elect an independent member to preside at that meeting.

## **9.3 Role and Function**

The Standards Committee will have the following roles and functions:

- I. promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives;
- II. assisting the councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives 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, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct;
- VI. granting dispensations to councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct;
- VII. dealing with any reports from a case tribunal or interim case tribunal, and any report from the Monitoring Officer on any matter referred to that officer by the Local Commissioner in Wales and determining any appropriate action
- VIII. The exercise of all of the above in relation to the community councils wholly or mainly in its area and the members of those community councils.

## **9.4 Meetings**

The Standards Committee shall hold at least one meeting during every period of twelve months. The Monitoring Officer or a representative of the Monitoring Officer shall attend every meeting of the Standards Committee

The Access to Information Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of the Constitution will apply to meetings and Minutes of the Standards Committee.

## **9.5 Additional Roles of Standards Committees**

The Council may arrange for the Standards Committee to exercise such other functions as the Council considers appropriate.

The detailed Terms of Reference of the Standards Committee is set out in Part 3, Appendix 1 of the Constitution.