
Chapter 7 – Ethical Governance

Part 1 – Article 9 – The Standards Committee

1. Standards Committee

- 1.1 The Council is required by Part 3 of the Local Government Act 2000 to establish a Standards Committee.

2. Composition

- 2.1 The Standards Committee must comprise Councillors (only one of whom may be a Member of the Cabinet) and at least 25% must be independent co-opted Members. Beyond this requirement the Council has considerable discretion over the composition of the Standards Committee. Council has resolved that the Standards Committee shall comprise of 6 Councillors (only one being a Member of the Cabinet) and 6 independent co-opted Members.
- 2.2 The appointment of Councillors to the Standards Committee is not required to be proportional to the strength of party groups but, by convention, the seats are appointed as if they were subject to proportionality.
- 2.3 The independent co-opted Members will be appointed for a 4-year term of office (or to fill the balance of a 4-year term left on the departure of an independent co-opted Member) and must not have been a Member or an Officer of the Council in the previous 5 years.
- 2.4 In addition, the Council may co-opt to the Standards Committee an independent co-opted Member of the Standards Committee of another local authority, either for a fixed term or in respect of any particular matter. All co-opted independent Members have full voting rights on the Committee and Sub-Committees.
- 2.5 The Chair of the Standards Committee and of any Sub-Committee shall be selected from the independent co-opted Members and shall have a casting vote in the event of a vote being tied.
- 2.6 In order for a meeting of the Standards Committee or a Sub-Committee to be quorate, there must be at least three Members present, including at least one independent co-opted Member and one Councillor.

3. Role and function

- 3.1 The role and function of the Standards Committee and its Sub-Committees are set out in Part 2 of this Chapter.