

**Article 9 – The Standards Committee****9.1 Standards Committee**

The Council has established a Standards Committee and Sub-Committees to deal with allegations into complaints that councillors have breached the code of conduct.

**9.2 Composition**

Political Balance – Standards Committees do not have to comply with the political balance rules contained in Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

- (a) Membership – The Standards Committee will be composed of:
  - (b) a maximum of six Borough Councillors;
  - (ii) three people who are not Councillors or an Officer of any other body having a Standards Committee (an independent Member)
  - (iii) two members of a Parish Council wholly or mainly in the Council's area (a Parish Member – appointed by the Swale Branch of the Kent Association of Parish Councils).
- (b) Independent Members – Independent Members will be entitled to vote at meetings.
- (c) Parish Members - A Parish Member must be present when matters relating to those Parish Councils or their Members are being considered.
- (d) Chairing the Committee - An Independent Member will chair the Committee. A Member of the Executive may not chair the Committee.

**9.3 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 from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (g) dealing with any reports from a case tribunal or interim case tribunal, and any report from the Monitoring Officer on any matter which is referred by an Ethical Standards Officer to the Monitoring Officer;
- (h) the exercise of (a) to (g) above in relation to the Parish Councils wholly or mainly in its area and the Members of those Parish Councils.

The terms of reference are set out in Part 3 of the Constitution.