

## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE - TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **Composition**

- (a) **Membership.** The Standards Committee is composed of 6 Members. Its membership includes:
- (i) 3 '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 Act, appointed in accordance with the procedure set out in the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001;
  - (ii) 2 Councillors other than the Leader and not more than one Member of the Executive; and
  - (iii) 1 Community Council Member
- (b) **Term of Office**
- (i) Independent Members are appointed for a period of 6 years and may be reappointed for a consecutive term not exceeding 4 years.
  - (ii) Members of local authorities who are members of the Standards Committee will have a term of office of no more than four years or until the next ordinary local government election following their appointment, whichever is the shorter. They may be reappointed for 1 further consecutive term.
- (c) **Quorum.** A meeting of the Standards Committee shall only be quorate when:
- (i) at least three Members, including the Chairperson, are present, and
  - (ii) at least half the Members present (including the Chairperson) are Independent Members.
- (d) **Voting.** Independent Members and the Community Council Member will be entitled to vote at meetings.
- (e) **Chairing the Committee.**
- (i) Only an Independent Member of the Standards Committee may be the Chair.
  - (ii) The Chair and Vice Chair will be elected by the Members of the Standards Committee for whichever is the shortest period of (a) not less than 4 years or no more than 6 years, or (b) until the term of office of the Independent Member comes to an end. The Chair and Vice Chair can be appointed for one period only.

## **Role and Function**

The Standards Committee will have the following roles and functions:

- (a) promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Councillors, co-opted Members and Church and Parent Governor representatives;
- (b) assisting the Councillors, co-opted Members and Church and Parent Governor representatives 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, co-opted Members and Church and Parent Governor representatives on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (f) 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;
- (g) 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 Public Services Ombudsman For Wales;
- (h) overview of the Council's whistleblowing policy;
- (i) overview of complaints handling and Ombudsman investigations;
- (j) oversight of the Members' protocols adopted by the Council;
- (k) oversight of the register of personal interests maintained under Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000;
- (l) oversight of the gifts and hospitality register;
- (m) monitor adherence to the Council's Management of Unreasonably Persistent Customers Policy by Group and Service Directors; and
- (n) the Committee will exercise the functions set out in (a) - (g) above in relation to Community Councils and Members of Community Councils.