

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Advisory ONLY

1. In accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011:
 - a. To consider and recommend to the Authority any actions considered necessary to discharge the statutory duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members and Co-opted Members of the Authority.
 - b. To develop, keep under review and make recommendations to the Authority on a Code of Conduct expected of Members and Co-opted Members of the Authority when acting in that capacity.
 - c. To oversee and make recommendations to the Authority on arrangements for the assessment, investigation and determination (as appropriate) of allegations of any breach of the Code of Conduct.
2. To oversee the content and operation of the Authority's "Whistleblowing" Code (Confidential Reporting Policy), making recommendations to the Authority as appropriate.

Matters with Delegated Power to Act

1. To consider the findings of any investigation into an alleged breach of the Authority's approved Code of Conduct (affording the Member subject to the allegation ["the subject Member"] a right of hearing) and – in consultation with the "independent person" - to determine whether or not (on the basis of the evidence available and on the balance of probabilities) a breach of the approved Code has been proven.
2. In the event that a Code breach is proven, to consider:
 - a. whether a sanction should be imposed; and
 - b. if so, determine what the sanction(s) should be from the following:
 - reporting the Code breach to the Authority for information and publishing it in local media; and/or
 - instructing the Monitoring Officer to arrange training for the Member; and/or
 - recommending to the Authority that, for the Member concerned:
 - they be removed from any or all Committees or Sub-Committees of the Authority; and/or
 - they be removed from all outside appointments to which they have been appointed or nominated by the Authority; and/or
 - any facilities provided by the Authority, such as e-mail and Internet access, be withdrawn as specified; and/or

- they be excluded from the Authority's offices or other premises, with the exception of meeting rooms as necessary for attending Authority, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings.
- 3. In the event of "sensitive" allegations of Code breach (e.g. where the Monitoring Officer may have previously advised the Member subject to the allegation on the matter concerned), to determine, following consultation with the independent person, whether or not an allegation should be investigated.
- 4. To consider, following submission in writing to the Monitoring Officer by the Member concerned, any request for a dispensation either to talk or to talk and vote in relation to a disclosable pecuniary interest in the following circumstances:
 - that, without the dispensation, the representation of different political groups on the body transacting the business would be so upset as to potentially alter the outcome of any vote on the matter;
 - That the Committee considers that the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the authority's area; or
 - That the Committee considers that it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.
- 5. To approve responses to external consultation documents on issues within the remit of the Committee and as referred by officers.