

Standards Committee Functions

To discharge with delegated authority the following functions:-

1. To promote and maintain high standards of conduct by the Members and co-opted Members of the Authority.
2. To assist members and co-opted Members of the Authority to observe the Members Code of Conduct.
3. To advise the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members Code of Conduct (and relevant protocols relating to Member/Officer relationships).
4. To monitor the operation of the Council's adopted Members Code of Conduct throughout the Authority.
5. To advise, train, or arrange to train Members and co-opted Members on matters relating to the Members Code of Conduct.
6. Where statutes so permit, to arrange dispensation to speak and/or vote where a Member or co-opted Member has an interest in any matters.
7. To receive Local Commissioner Reports following investigations, or part investigations, in relation to allegations of breach of the Members Code of Conduct and/or
 - (a) To receive and consider reports and recommendations made with regard to same, from the Monitoring Officer (when such matters are referred to that Officer) including provision with respect to the procedure to be followed by the Standards Committee; and
 - (b) Following its consideration of any such reports or recommendations, to take any action prescribed by statute or regulations made thereunder (including action against any Member or co-opted Member (or former Member or co-opted Member) of the Authority who is the subject of any such report or recommendation) and to give publicity to such report, recommendation or action.

8. To receive, consider and implement general advice from the Local Commissioner and the Council's Monitoring Officer.
9. *To receive from the Adjudication Panel, Interim Case Tribunals or Case Tribunals:-
 - (a) Notices issued by them to Council;
 - (b) Recommendations about matters relating to the exercise of the Authority's function, the Code of Conduct and the Standards Committee and make such recommendations as it thinks fit to Council relating thereto.
10. To be responsible for liaison between the Council and external agencies, in particular the National Assembly for Wales, the District Auditor and the local Ombudsman in connection with any matter within the Committee's terms of reference, under the provisions of the 2000 Act and Regulations made thereafter.
11. To make representations to the National Assembly and the Welsh Local Government Association about any matter relating to the General Principles of Conduct for Members of the Council.
12. To consider and recommend procedures for complaints to be dealt with by the Standards Committee and to propose amendments as may be appropriate from time to time in accordance with statute etc.
13. To oversee the whistle-blowing regime in particular in this respect to consider and recommend procedures in respect of the following:
 - Whistle-blowing arrangements;
 - Anti-Fraud/Corruption or malpractice strategy.
14. To examine any Code(s) of Conduct for Employees of the Authority and to make recommendations as may be considered appropriate.
15. To receive progress reports from the Monitoring Officer from time to time on such matters within the purview of the Standards Committee, and to make such recommendations to Council as may be deemed appropriate.

16. To exercise such powers or duties as may be given to or imposed on Standards Committees from time to time by legislation.
17. To exercise in relation to Community Councils and their Members within the County Borough area such of the foregoing matters as are referred to in Section 56 of the Local Government Act 2000.
18. To monitor compliance of the leaders of political groups on the Council with their duties under Section 52A(1) of the Local Government Act 2000 that they are taking steps to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by the members of their group and are cooperating with the Standards Committee's functions.
19. To produce an annual report to the Council as to how the Standards Committee has operated, including:
 - (a) what has been done to discharge the general and specific powers conferred on it by statute and these requirements;
 - (b) reports and recommendations made or referred to it by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales
 - (c) action taken by the Standards Committee follows is consideration of reports and recommendations
 - (d) notices given to the Standards Committee
20. It should be noted that members of local authorities who are Members of the Standards Committee will have a term of office until the next ordinary local government election following their appointment. They may be reappointed for one further consecutive term