

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference, Function and Responsibility

The Council's Standards Committee shall:-

1. Promote and maintain high standards of conduct by the members and co-opted members of the Council;
2. Assist Members and co-opted members of the Council to observe the Members' Code of Conduct;
3. Advise full Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct;
4. Monitor the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct;
5. Advise, train or arrange training for members and co-opted members on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct;
6. Grant dispensations to District Council Members and co-opted Members from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct;
7. Deal with any reports relating to complaints from the Monitoring Officer;
8. Provide the same functions (other than the grant of dispensations) in relation to parish councils and members of the parish councils as in relation to Torridge District Council and members of Torridge District Council;

Powers to Impose Sanctions

1. The standards Committee shall have the following powers when dealing with and deciding upon a complaint:-
 - a) To issue a censure to a Councillor,
 - b) To request that a Councillor issue a written apology
 - c) To recommend that a Councillor undergo appropriate training,
 - d) To recommend to the relevant Group Leader and to Full Council and/or a Parish/Town Council that other action be taken against a Councillor
 - e) Publication of the findings of the Standards Committee including media statements or press releases, publication on the Council's website and inclusion of details in the Members Bulletin;
 - f) Report the findings of the Standards Committee to full Council;
 - g) Recommend to the Councillor's group leader (or in the case of ungrouped Councillors, recommend directly to full Council) that he/she be removed from any or all committees or sub-committees of the Council;
 - h) Recommend to full Council that the Councillor be removed from their role as Lead Member if applicable;
 - i) Recommend to full Council that the Councillor be removed from all outside bodies to which they have been appointed or nominated by full Council;
 - j) Recommend to full Council the withdrawal of certain facilities provided to the Councillor by the Council as may be reasonable in the circumstances;

- k) Recommend to full Council that the Councillor be excluded from the Council's offices or other premises, with the exception of meeting rooms as necessary for attending full Council, committee and sub-committee meetings or put in place such restrictions on access to staff as may be reasonable in the circumstances;
- l) Recommend to full Council the suspension, withdrawal or reduction of a Councillor's Voluntary Grant Budget for a period of time following the finding of breach.

Composition

1. The Council's Standards Committee shall be made up of up to Nine (9) members.
2. Membership of the Council's Standards Committee shall be made up as follows:-
 - a) Seven (7) District Councillors; and
 - b) Two (2) Town/Parish Representatives:

of whom the quorum shall be Five (5).
3. The Council shall appoint up to three (3) Independent Persons to assist the Standards Committee, the Monitoring Officer, and individual Councillors in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.
4. The functions of the Council's Standards Committee may be discharged by sub-committees appointed by the Standards Committee.
5. The Town/Parish representatives shall not be entitled to vote at Standards Committee meetings but shall be able to take part in the discussions.
6. The Independent Persons will be invited to attend meetings of the Standards Committee and take part in the discussions, but shall not be entitled to vote

