

## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

### **Terms of Reference**

1. To promote and maintain high standards of conduct by the members and co-opted members of the Council.
2. To assist members and co-opted members to observe the Members' Code of Conduct.
3. To advise the Council on the adoption or revision of its Code of Conduct.
4. To monitor the operation and effectiveness of the Members' Code of Conduct.
5. To advise, train or arrange to train members and co-opted members on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct and other issues relating to standards and conduct
6. To assess and review complaints alleging breaches of the Code of Conduct by members and co-opted members.
7. To conduct determinations' hearings of complaints alleging breaches of the Code of Conduct.
8. To grant dispensations to members and co-opted members with prejudicial interests.
9. To exercise the same functions as described in 1-8 above in relation to the parish councils wholly or mainly in its area and the members of those parish councils.
10. To advise the Council on the adoption or revision of all protocols and/or guidance, insofar as these relate to Standards or ethical conduct issues.
11. To consider any matter referred to it by Standards for England or the Monitoring Officer.
12. To provide an overview of the Council's policies with regard to standards of conduct and ethics and associated costs.
13. To determine applications for exemptions for politically restricted posts.
14. To exercise such other responsibilities as may be prescribed by law.
15. To undertake any action that improves, promotes, safeguards or facilitates the highest standard, of probity and ethical conduct by the Council its members and staff and those with whom it has, or who seek a contractual, financial or other relationship and to advise the Council on the ethical aspects of good governance standards for public service.

16. To establish sub-committees under relevant regulations in force for the discharge of functions prescribed by law and to determine, or make arrangements for determining the composition, membership and terms of reference of such sub-committees.
17. To monitor the registers of Members' interests as required by the statutory code of conduct, and to monitor the interests of any members of staff who, in accordance with any requirements upon them, are required to declare such interests to the Council.
18. To discharge as a full committee or a sub-committee the functions prescribed in relation to grants and supervision of exemptions from political restriction.
19. Responding to national reviews and consultations on governance related issues, in so far as they affect standards or ethical conduct issues.