

THE CONSTITUTION - SECTION 8

8. THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Composition

8.1 Membership

The Standards Committee is composed of nine Members. Its Membership includes:

- 8.1.1 Five “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 Local Government Act 2000, appointed in accordance with the procedure set out in the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001 (as amended);
- 8.1.2 Three Councillors other than the Leader and not more than one Member of the Executive; and
- 8.1.3 One Community Council Member of a Community Council within the County Borough of Wrexham and who is not also a Councillor.

8.2 Term of Office

- 8.2.1 Independent Members are appointed for a period of not less than four and not more than six years and may be reappointed for one further consecutive term not exceeding four years.
- 8.2.2 Councillors will have a term of office of no longer than the period until the next ordinary local government election following their appointment. They may be reappointed for one further consecutive term. A Councillor ceases to be a member of the Standards Committee if he/she ceases to be a Councillor.
- 8.2.3 The Community Council Member will have a term of office until the next ordinary elections for the community council of which he/she is a member following appointment. He/she may be appointed for one further consecutive term. The Community Council Member will cease to be a member of the Standards Committee if he/she ceases to be a member of a Community Council within the County Borough of Wrexham.

8.3 Quorum

A meeting of the Standards Committee shall only be quorate when:

- 8.3.1 at least four Members, including the Chairperson, are present; and
- 8.3.2 at least half the Members present (including the Chairperson) are Independent Members; and
- 8.3.3 at least one Councillor is present.

8.4 Voting

Independent Members and Community Council Members will be entitled to vote at meetings.

8.5 Chairing the Committee

8.5.1 Only an Independent Member of the Standards Committee may be the Chair.

8.3.4 The Chair and Vice Chair will be elected by the Members of the Standards Committee for whichever is the shortest period of:

8.5.2.1 not less than four years or no more than six years; or

8.5.2.2 until the term of office of the Independent Member comes to an end.

8.6 Community Council Member

A Community Committee Member shall not take part in the proceedings of the Standards Committee when any matter relating to their Town or Community Council is being considered.

8.7 Sub-Committees

The Standards Committee may appoint a sub-committee to discharge its functions, under Section 54A of the Local Government Act 2000. A sub-committee shall:-

8.7.1 consist of not less than three members of the Standards Committee;

8.7.2 only be quorate if:-

(a) at least at least two members are present, including the chairperson; and

(b) at least half of the members present (including the chairperson) are Independent Members.

8.8 Role and Function

The Standards Committee will have the following roles and functions:

8.8.1 promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Councillors and co-opted Members of the Authority;

8.8.2 assisting the Councillors and co-opted Members to observe the Members' Code of Conduct;

8.8.3 advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct, the Protocol for Member/Officer Relations and any other Codes the Council introduces relating to the conduct of Members;

8.8.4 monitoring the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct;

8.8.5 advising, training or arranging to train Councillors and co-opted Members on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct, the Protocol for Member/Officer Relations and any other Codes the Council introduces relating to the conduct of Members;

8.8.6 the granting of dispensations enabling Member participation in business of the Council which would otherwise be prohibited by the mandatory provisions of the Members' Code of Conduct in accordance with the Standards Committees (Grants of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001;

- 8.8.7 to determine matters, which are the subject of a report and any recommendations from a monitoring officer, or a report from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales together with any recommendations of a monitoring officer in accordance with the Local Government Investigations (Functions of Monitoring Officers and Standards Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2001;
- 8.8.8 to oversee the Council's Whistleblowing regime;
- 8.8.9 to consider cases of non-attendance by Members at meetings in accordance with the Council's Member Remuneration Scheme.

8.9 Work Programme

The Committee will prepare a work programme, which will be reviewed and approved annually.

8.10 Rules of Procedure and Debate

- 8.10.1 The Rules of Procedure Rules in Section 4 will apply to the meetings of the Standards Committee.
- 8.10.2 When considering the conduct of individual Councillors, the procedures outlined in Section 18D will apply.