# SECTION 8

# 8. The Standards Committee

## Composition

## 8.1 Membership

The Standards Committee is composed of 9 Members. Its Membership includes:

**8.1.1** 5 "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** 3 Councillors other than the Leader and not more than one Member of the Executive; and

**8.1.3** 1 Community Council Member(s).

## 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 a consecutive term not exceeding four years.

**8.2.2** Members of local authorities who are Members of the Standards Committee will have a term of office of no more than four years or until the next ordinary local government election following their appointment, whichever is the shorter. They may be reappointed for one further consecutive term.

## 8.3 Quorum

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

**8.3.1** at least 3 Members, including the Chairperson, are present; and

**8.3.2** at least half the Members present (including the Chairperson) are Independent Members.

Presence will include presence through electronic means which allow the member to hear and speak at the meeting.

The failure of any technological provision whether that leads to a partial or complete loss of contact shall not invalidate any part of the deliberations or any vote taken. The Chairman may postpone the meeting if they deem that appropriate.

## 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.

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

(i) not less than four years or no more than six years; or

(ii) until the term of office of the Independent Member comes to an end.

## 8.6 Role and Function

The Standards Committee will have the following roles and functions:

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

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

**8.6.3** advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct;

**8.6.4** monitoring the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct;

**8.6.5** advising, training or arranging to train Councillors and co-opted Members on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct;

and these specific functions—

**8.6.6** monitoring compliance by leaders of political groups on the council with their duties under section 52A(1) Local Government Act 2000;

**8.6.7** advising, training or arranging to train leaders of political groups on the council about matters relating to those duties.

## 8.7 Work Programme

The Committee will prepare a work programme, which will be reviewed and approved at each Committee meeting.

## 8.8 Rules of Procedure and Debate

8.8.1 The Council Procedure Rules at Section 4 will apply to the meetings of the Standards Committee Members.

8.8.2 When considering the conduct of individual Councillors, the procedures outlined in Appendix 2 to Section 18 will apply.