

## ROLE OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

### *taken from Part 1, Article 9 of the* **MERTHYR TYDFIL COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL'S** **CONSTITUTION**

#### **2.09.01 STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

The Council meeting will establish a Standards Committee.

#### **2.09.02 COMPOSITION**

(a) **Membership.** The Standards Committee will be composed of nine members with majority of members (five) being '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 Act, appointed in accordance with the procedure set out in the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001. Other than the five 'independent members' its membership will also include:

- (i) three councillors (other than the Chairperson of the Cabinet and not more than one member of the Cabinet); and
- (ii) one member of a community council wholly or mainly in the Council's area (a 'Community Council Committee Member') who is not also a member of the Council.

#### **(b) Term of office**

- (i) Independent members are appointed for a period of four years or no more than six years and may not be re-appointed.
- (ii) Members of the local authority 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 re-appointed for one further consecutive term.

- (c) **Quorum.** A meeting of the Standards Committee shall only be quorate when:
  - (i) at least three members, including the Chairperson, are present, and
  - (ii) at least half the members present (including the Chairperson) are independent members
- (d) **Voting.** Independent members and the Community Council Committee member will be entitled to vote at meetings.
- (e) **Community Council Committee Member.** A Community Council Committee Member shall not take part in the proceedings of the Standards Committee when any matter relating to their community council is being considered;
- (f) **Chairing the Committee.**
  - (i) Only an independent member of the Standards Committee may be the Chairperson.
  - (ii) The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson will be elected by the members of the Standards Committee for whichever is the shortest period of (a) not less than 4 years or no more than 6 years, or (b) until the term of office of the independent member comes to an end. The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson can be appointed for one period only.

### **2.09.03 ROLE AND FUNCTION**

The Standards Committee will have the following roles and functions:

- (a) promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives;
- (b) assisting the Councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives to observe the Members' Code of Conduct and associated local protocols;
- (c) advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct and associated local protocols;
- (d) monitoring and reviewing the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct and associated local protocols;
- (e) developing for recommendation to the Council local protocols to supplement the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (f) enforcing local protocols and applying sanctions in respect of breaches as appropriate;
- (g) advising, training or arranging to train Councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct and associated local protocols;

- (h) granting dispensations to Councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct and associated local protocols;
- (i) dealing with any reports from a case tribunal or interim case tribunal, and any report from the Monitoring Officer on any matter which is referred to that officer by the Local Commissioner for Administration in Wales (Ombudsman);
- (j) to keep under review, amend and make additional provisions to the Protocol on Member/Officer relations;
- (k) to monitor the Officers' Code of Conduct to ensure consistent application and enforcement Council-wide;
- (l) general overview of probity matters arising from the Local Commissioner for Administration in Wales (Ombudsman) reports, Monitoring Officer reports and Audit reports;
- (m) the exercise of (a) to (l) above in relation to the Community Council wholly or mainly in its area and the members of the Community Council.