

Article 9 - The Standards Committee

9.1 Standards Committee

The Council has established a Standards Committee.

9.2 Composition

(a) **Membership.** The Standards Committee will comprise:

- nine elected members of the Council, appointed proportionally;
- up to two Town or Parish Council members may be co-opted on to the Committee as non-voting members.

(b) **Independent Person.** The Council's Independent Person and their substitutes will be invited to attend and participate at committee meetings but will not be entitled to vote at meetings.

9.3 Role and Function

The Standards Committee will have the following roles and functions:

- (a) To promote high standards of conduct by elected and co-opted members and staff of Staffordshire Moorlands District Council.
- (b) To advise the District Council on the adoption or revision of local codes of conduct, protocols or other ethical guidance for Members and staff.
- (c) To monitor the operation of the Council's codes of conduct, protocols or other ethical guidance.
- (d) To provide briefings, training or advisory notes to elected and co-opted Members and staff relating to the Council's codes of conduct, protocols or other ethical guidance.
- (e) Where appropriate, granting dispensations to District Councillors from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members Code of Conduct.
- (f) To consider and where necessary take action regarding complaints for breaches of the Code of Conduct by the District Council's members and have arrangements in place to deal with complaints for Parish and Town Councils.
- (g) To promote Member development and training on ethics and standards generally within the District Council.
- (h) To monitor the Council's corporate complaints procedure including any references to the Local Government or Housing Ombudsman and to consider any implications for the Council's codes, protocols or ethical guidance.
- (i) To advise the Council on the adoption or revision of the Constitution in accordance with Article 14.

9.4

Delegated Powers

The Standards Committee has full delegated power to act within its defined role and function.