

ARTICLE 9 - THE AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

9.1 Appointment

The Council will appoint an Audit and Standards Committee at its Annual Meeting.

9.2 Membership

The Audit and Standards Committee will be composed of 7 Members and 4 substitutes and is subject to the rules of political proportionality.

9.3 Role and Function

The main functions of the Audit and Standards Committee are

- (a) To promote and maintain high standards of conduct within the Council and to monitor the operation of the Code of Conduct.
- (b) To hear and determine complaints of alleged breaches of the Codes of Conduct by borough or parish councillors referred to it by the Monitoring Officer.
- (c) To undertake the Council's audit and corporate governance functions.

The statutory roles and functions of the Audit and Standards Committee are set out in full in the Terms of Reference of the Committee at Part 3 of this Constitution.

9.4 Dispensations

The Audit and Standards Committee may, after having had regard to all relevant circumstances, grant a dispensation to the councillor or co-opted member only if, the Committee considers that:

- (a) without the dispensation the representation of different political groups on the body transacting the particular business would be so upset as to alter the likely outcome of any vote relating to that business, or
- (b) granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the borough, or
- (c) it is otherwise appropriate to grant the dispensation.