

APPENDIX E – STANDARDS COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

EXTRACT FROM THE COUNCIL’S CONSTITUTION

11 THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

11.1 Composition

11.1.1 Membership.

The Standards Committee will be composed of 9 members. Its membership will include:

- (a) up to 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 Act, appointed in accordance with the procedure set out in the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001 (as amended);
- (b) 3 county councillors other than the Leader and not more than one member of the executive;
- (c) one member of a town or community council wholly or mainly in the Council’s area (a ‘community committee member’).

11.1.2 Term of office:

- (a) independent members are appointed for a period of not less than 4 nor more than 6 years and may be reappointed for one further consecutive term not exceeding 4 years;
- (b) members of the local authority who are members of the Standards Committee will have a term of office of no more than 5 years or the period until the next ordinary local government election following their appointment, whichever is the shorter. They may be reappointed for one further term;
- (c) a community committee member will have a term of office of no more than 5 years or the period until the next ordinary local government election following their appointment, whichever is the shorter. They may be reappointed for one further term.

11.1.3 Quorum.

A meeting of the standards committee shall only be quorate when:

- (a) at least 3 members, including the Chairman, are present, and
- (b) at least half the members present (including the Chairman) are independent members.

11.1.4 Voting.

Independent members and community committee members will be entitled to vote at meetings.

11.1.5 Community committee members.

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.

11.1.6 Chairing the Committee:

- (a) only an independent member of the standards committee may be the Chairman;

- (b) the Chairman will be elected by the members of the standards committee for a period not exceeding one year. The Chairman is eligible for re-election;
- (c) the election of a Chairman will be the first item of business for the standards committee at the commencement of each municipal year.

11.2 Role and Function

11.2.1 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;
- (c) advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (d) monitoring and from time to time reviewing the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct and protocols which apply to members of the Council, employees, contractors and other parties or organisations associated with Council activity;
- (e) 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;
- (f) 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;
- (g) dealing with any reports from a case tribunal or interim case tribunal, and any report from the Monitoring Officer on any matter referred to that officer by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales;
- (h) mentoring and supporting the Council's Monitoring Officer in the discharge of their role;
- (i) receiving and investigating (where statute permits) reports and complaints relating to the Members' Code of Conduct and protocols approved by the Council from time to time;
- (j) the exercise of (a) to (i) above in relation to the town and community councils wholly or mainly in its area and the members of those town and community councils.