

The Standards Committee

The Standards Committee is authorised to discharge the following functions¹:

1. to advise the authority on the adoption or revision of a Code of Conduct for Members² and to promote, monitor and review the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct.
2. to consider and determine one or more local codes of conduct for Members or protocols for Member/officer relations³ and to promote, monitor, review and amend such codes of conduct or protocols;
3. to appoint sub-committees⁴ to consider and initially assess⁵ or review decisions not to act⁶ in respect of any written allegations⁷ made against Members;
4. to arrange for the consideration and determination of any complaints⁸ made against Members and the determination of any sanction to be imposed on a finding of misconduct;
5. to consider and determine applications for dispensations⁹;
6. to make recommendations to the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee where representations (on behalf of the Council) are required to be made to external agencies,¹⁰ about any matter relating to general principles of conduct, model codes of conduct and the codes of conduct or protocols approved from time to time by or on behalf of the Council and to make representations on its own behalf;

¹ 'Functions' for these purposes shall be construed in a broad and inclusive fashion and shall include the doing of anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of the specified functions. The functions derive from Part 3 of the Local Government Act 2000 and are discharged both in relation to Leeds City Council and its Members, and parish councils wholly or mainly in its area and the Members of those parish councils.

² Section 54(2)(a) Local Government Act 2000

³ To be known as 'Local Codes'

⁴ Regulation 6, Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 No. 1085/2008

⁵ Section 57A Local Government Act 2000

⁶ Section 57B Local Government Act 2000

⁷ written allegations made by any person under section 57A Local Government Act 2000

⁸ 'complaints' for these purposes to mean allegations of breach of

- the Members Code of Conduct adopted by Leeds City Council; or
- the National Code of Local Government Conduct where the alleged breach is committed before 5 April 2002; or
- any of the Authority's Local Protocols/Codes which refer to the conduct of Members, other than the Code of Conduct;

which have been the subject of an investigation resulting in a finding of failure to comply (or in relation to which the Standards Committee have resolved not to accept a finding of no failure to comply) and are therefore referred to the Committee by the Monitoring Officer

⁹ In accordance with the Standards Committee (Further Provisions) (England) Regulations 2009

¹⁰ Such external agencies may include, but are not restricted to, the District or Approved Auditor, Communities and Local Government, Standards for England, an Ethical Standards Officer, the First-Tier Tribunal (Local Government Standards in England) or a case tribunal.

7. to provide advice and guidance to Members and officers and to make arrangements for training in matters relating to codes of conduct and protocols;
8. to consider and advise the Council with respect to the adoption or amendment of a Code of Conduct for employees and to promote, monitor and review the Code of Conduct;¹¹
9. to consider any application for exemption from political restriction which is made to the Committee;¹²
10. on the application of any person or otherwise, to give directions to the relevant authority requiring it to include a post in the list of politically restricted posts.¹³

¹¹ It is not the function of the Committee to determine or become involved in individual officer conduct or disciplinary cases but rather to provide an overview of the application of the provisions of the Code across the Council.

¹² Section 3A(1)(a) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (as amended by Section 202 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007)

¹³ Section 3A(1)(b) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (as amended by Section 202 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007)