

ARTICLE 9 - THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

9.1. **Standards Committee**

The Council meeting will establish a Standards Committee.

Composition

9.2 **Membership**

The Standards Committee will be composed of 11 Members, as follows:

- five councillors (no more than one member of the Executive can serve on this Committee);
- three people who are not councillors or officers of the Council or any other body having a standards committee (independent members);
- three members of a town or parish council in the Council's area (Parish Members, who are not also a member or officer of the Council or of Somerset County Council);

9.3 **Independent members.**

Independent members will be entitled to vote at Standards Committee meetings.

9.4 **Parish members.**

A parish member (or appointed deputy parish member) must be present when matters relating to parish councils or their members are being considered and will be entitled to vote at such meetings.

9.5 **Chairing the Committee**

The Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Standards Committee will be appointed at the first meeting of the Committee following the Annual Meeting of the Council. The Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Committee will be Independent Members.

9.6 **Role and Function**

The Standards Committee has statutory responsibilities regarding the operation of the Council's adopted Member Code of Conduct and for training Members in respect of the Code and for dealing with complaints that the Code

of Conduct has been breached. It also deals with matters referred to it by an Ethical Standards Officer of the Standards Board for England and with various other matters designed to ensure that high ethical standards are maintained and promoted, both within the District Council and within all Town and Parish Councils in Sedgemoor.