

MEETING:	Standards Committee
DATE:	13 April 2011
TITLE:	The Standards Committee's Terms of Reference
AUTHOR:	Monitoring Officer
ACTION:	Review the Terms of Reference

Background

Currently, the following matters are within the Committee's Terms of Reference:

"Role and Function

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;
- (ch) monitoring the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (d) 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;
- (dd) 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;
- (e) dealing with any reports from a case tribunal or interim case tribunal, and any report from the Monitoring Officer on any complaint made to him/her or on any matter referred to that officer by the Local Commissioner in Wales;
- (f) authorising payments by the Monitoring Officer of allowances and expenses to persons who have assisted in an investigation by the Monitoring Officer;

(ff) the exercise of (a) to (f) above in relation to the community councils wholly or mainly in its area and the members of those community councils”

2. These are the matters laid down by the Local Government Act 2000 and relevant regulations as being the responsibilities of all standards committees.

3. The 2000 Act does however allow an authority to arrange for its standards committee to exercise such other functions as the authority considers appropriate.

4. In considering whether there are any other matters that might be appropriate for the committee, the following matters, due to their nature, are possibilities:

- Members’ Gifts and Hospitality Policy
- Gifts and Hospitality Policy for Staff
- Conflict of Interests Policy for Staff
- Whistleblowing Policy

5. Suggestions would be welcomed from the Committee as to possible additions to its responsibilities.

6. If the Committee decides that other responsibilities should be added, then the recommendations would have to be presented to the full Council for a decision.

Recommendations

7. The Committee is asked to review its terms of reference and consider whether there are any matters it believes should be added to it.