

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**LEAD OFFICER:** Martin Jepson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services

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**Summary:** Sets out the new terms of reference of the Standards Committee for 2008/2009

<b>Recommendation:</b> That the new Terms of Reference are noted
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**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The Annual Meeting of the Council on 13 May 2008 agreed revised Terms of Reference for the Standards Committee which are attached at Appendix "A" for the Committee's information.

**2 NEW ROLES**

2.1 There are two new roles for the Standards Committee which are reflected in the revised terms of reference. These are (h) which reflects the need for allegations of breaches of the Code of Conduct to be subject to initial screening and assessment by a sub committee of the Standards Committee, which Members are now familiar with from the training exercise earlier in the year. Sub committees to carry out initial assessments and where necessary to review them will be convened in accordance with the procedures agreed by the Committee at its last meeting.

2.2 The second new role, (l), is to hear and determine applications by Council employees for exemptions from political restrictions on posts. This responsibility is placed on local standards committees by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, and is potentially significant in that it moves the role the Standards Committee away from dealing exclusively with issues relating to the conduct of Councillors and into the area of the terms and conditions of service of Council employees. However it is expected that cases arising will be rare and these will be addressed if and when they arise by the provision of appropriate briefings and training for Members of the Committee on this role.

**3. CONCLUSION**

3.1 The Committee is asked to note the new Terms of Reference.

**List of Consultees:** None

**Background Papers:** Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007; Consultation Paper: Orders and Regulations Relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members in England

## **CHECKLIST FOR DEALING WITH KEY ISSUES**

Please confirm against the issue if the key issues below have been addressed. This can be by either a short narrative or quoting the paragraph number in the report in which it has been covered.

Impact on Crime and Disorder	None
Impact on Sustainability	None
Impact on Rural Proofing	None
Health and Safety Implications	None
Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues	None
Children and Young Persons Implications	None
Human Rights Act Implications	None
Monitoring Officer comments	
S. 151 Officer comments	