SECTION 8

8. THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Council shall establish and maintain a Standards Committee.

8.1 Composition

Membership. The Standards Committee shall be composed of not less than five nor more than nine members. Its membership shall include:

(a) Five "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) and the Standards Committees (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006.

(b) Three Councillors other than the Leader(s) and not more than one member of the Cabinet.

(c) One member of a Town or Community Council wholly or mainly in the Council's area (a "Community Committee Member") and who is not also a member of this Council.

8.2 Term of Office

(a) Independent members are appointed for a period of not less than four nor more than six years in accordance with Regulation 18(1) of the Standards Committee (Wales) Regulations 2001, as amended by Regulation 2(8)(a) of the Local Government (Standards Committees, Investigations, Dispensations and Referral) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016, and may be re-appointed for one further consecutive term not exceeding four years.

(b) Members of the Local Authority who are members of the Standards Committee will have a term of office of no longer than the period until the next ordinary local government elections following the Member's appointment to the Standards Committee. Such a Member shall cease to be a Member of the Standards Committee if that Member ceases to be a Member of the Council. Such a Member may be re-appointed for one further consecutive term.

(c) The term of office of the Community Committee Member shall be no longer than the period until the next ordinary local government elections for the community council of which he/she is a member following their appointment to the Standards Committee. Such a Community Committee Member shall cease to be a member of the Standards Committee if that member ceases to be a member of a Town or Community Council within the Vale of Glamorgan. Such a member may be re-appointed for one further consecutive term.

8.3 Quorum

A meeting of the Standards Committee shall only be quorate when:

(a) At least three members are present (including the Chair) and

(b) At least half the members present (including the Chair) are independent members.

8.4 **Voting**

Independent members and the Community Committee Member shall be entitled to vote at meetings.

8.5 **Community Committee Member**

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.

8.6 **Chairing the Committee**

(a) Only an independent member of the Standards Committee may be the Chair.

(b) The Chair will be elected by the members of the Standards Committee for a period not exceeding one year. The Chair is eligible for re-election.

(c) The election of a Chair will be the first item of business for the Standards Committee at the commencement of each municipal year.

(d) The term "Chair" includes:

(i) the person elected as Chair for the municipal year;

(ii) the person elected as Vice-Chair for the municipal year and presiding over the meeting in the absence of the Chair; and

(iii) an independent member presiding over the meeting in the absence of the elected Chair and Vice-Chair.

8.7 **Role and Function**

The Standards Committee shall 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 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 the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct;

(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;

(h) the exercise of (a) to (g) above in relation to the Community Councils wholly or mainly in its area and the members of those Community Councils;

(i) overview of complaints handling and Ombudsman investigations;

(j) make an Annual Report to Full Council describing how the Committee's functions have been discharged during the financial year;

(k) monitor compliance by political leaders of the above duties and provide advice, training or arrange to train leaders of political groups.

8.8 **Joint Standards Committee**

The Council may establish a Joint Standards Committee with one or more local authorities for the purpose of discharging the statutory functions of the Standards Committee.