SECTION M - THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

1. Promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Members and Co-opted Members of the authority.

2. Receiving reports from the Monitoring Officer and assessing the operation and effectiveness of the Code of Conduct for Members.

3. Advising on training or arranging to train Members and Co-opted Members on matters relating to the Code of Conduct for Members.

4. Assisting elected Members and Co-opted Members to observe the Code of Conduct for Members.

5. Receiving referrals from the Monitoring Officer into allegations of misconduct in accordance with the authority's assessment criteria.

6. In consultation with the Monitoring Officer, appointing Standards sub-committees to hear and determine complaints about elected Members and Co-opted Members referred to it by the Monitoring Officer.

7. Advising the Council upon the contents of and requirements for codes/protocols/other procedures relating to standards of conduct throughout the Council.

8. Maintaining oversight of the Council's arrangements for dealing with complaints;

9. Informing the Assembly and the Chief Executive of relevant issues arising from the determination of Code of Conduct complaints.

10. Hearing and determining any appeals against refusal by the Monitoring Officer to grant dispensations.

Terms of Reference of the Standards Sub-Committee

11.1 To conduct a hearing into an allegation that an Elected Member or Co-opted Member has breached the Council's Code of Conduct.

11.2 Following a hearing, make one of the following findings:

(a) that the Member has not failed to comply with the Code of Conduct and no further action needs to be taken in respect of the matters considered at the hearing;

(b) that the Member has failed to comply with the Code of Conduct but that no further action needs to be taken in respect of the matters considered at the hearing;

(c) that the Member has failed to comply with the Code of Conduct and that a sanction and/or an informal resolution should be imposed.
11.3 The sub-committee may impose any action or combination of actions available to it, or impose any informal resolution or combination of informal resolutions as are available to it by law or policy.

11.4 After making a finding the sub-committee shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, provide written notice of its findings and the reasons for its decision to the Member and complainant.