

Article 10 - Arrangements for promoting good standards of Shadow Councillor behavior

1 Standards Committee

The Shadow Council will establish a Standards Committee.

2 Membership – The Standards Committee will be composed of eight Councillors.

3 Adoption of a code of conduct for Shadow Councillors and Arrangements for dealing with alleged breaches

The Shadow Council has adopted the Members' Code of Conduct and Arrangements for dealing with alleged breaches of the West Northamptonshire Shadow Council's Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Part 5 of this Constitution.

4 Independent Persons

4.1 An Independent Person:

- must be consulted and their views taken account of before the Standards Committee/Hearings Panel takes a decision on any allegation that is to be investigated;
- may be consulted by the Interim/Appointed Monitoring Officer in circumstances where an allegation is not to be investigated; and
- may be consulted by a Member against whom an allegation has been made

4.2 For the purposes of this Article, references to “the Independent Person” are to a person chosen by the Interim/Appointed Monitoring Officer from among all of the Independent Persons appointed by each of the West Northamptonshire Councils under section 28(7) of the Localism Act 2011 as part of their arrangements under which decisions on allegations are made.

5 The Hearings Panel

5.1 The Committee shall establish a Hearings Panel.

5.2 The Hearings Panel shall be made up of any three Councillors of the Standards Committee and shall meet on an ad hoc basis.

5.3 The Hearings Panel shall:

- consider any Investigating Officer's report referred to it by the Interim/Appointed Monitoring Officer and an Independent Person and

conduct a hearing to determine if a Member of the Shadow Council has failed to comply with the Members' Code of Conduct; and

- announce their findings upon the conclusion of the hearing and if finding a Member of the Shadow Council has failed to comply with the Members' Code of Conduct, set out such sanctions from the list set out in paragraph 8 of the Shadow Council's "Arrangements for Dealing with Allegations of Breaches of the West Northamptonshire Shadow Council Members' Code of Conduct" as it thinks fit.

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