

**Draft**  
**Part 2 - Article 9 of the Constitution**

## Article 9 – The Standards Regime

9.01 In accordance with the Localism Act 2011, the Council will establish a Panel of at least three Members to deal with complaints against Members of the District Council or a parish council in respect of breaches of the Code of Conduct. The Council's detailed arrangements for handling standards complaints are contained in Part 4 titled 'Member Code of Conduct Complaint Procedure Rules.'

### 9.02 **Composition**

The Panel will consist of at least three Group Leaders or their nominated representatives.

9.03 In summary, the following stages make up the full complaints process with a complaint only moving on to the next stage if the criteria is met as detailed in the Member Code of Conduct Complaint Procedure Rules at Part 4.~~When dealing with complaints the following stages be implemented:-~~

Stage 1 - Initial jurisdiction test by Monitoring Officer.

Stage 2 – Initial assessment of complaint by the Monitoring Officer ~~considers complaint~~ in consultation with the Independent Person appointed by the Council.

Stage ~~3~~2 - Monitoring Officer seeks informal resolution and/or full investigation of complaint ~~by Group Leaders (or nominated representatives) and by representative of the Parish Council if complaint involved a Parish Councillor (Clerk Deputy or nominated Member).~~

Stage ~~3~~4 - If a formal Standards Hearing is required, a Panel of at least 3 Members comprising Group Leaders or their nominated representatives ~~(but not those involved in Stage 2 above)~~, will be appointed to consider a report from the Investigating Officer and determine the complaint. If the complaint involves a Parish Councillor, an elected representative of the relevant Parish Council being the Chair or nominated representative ~~(but not the representative involved in Stage 2)~~ will be added to the membership of the Panel. In accordance with the statutory provision, the Panel will consult the Independent Person before it determines the complaint.

