

TERMS OF REFERENCE

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The Committee is responsible for:

- Promoting high standards of ethical behaviour by developing, maintaining and monitoring Codes of Conduct for Members of the Council (including co-opted Members and other persons acting in a similar capacity)
- Ensuring that Members receive advice and training as appropriate on the Members Code of Conduct
- Granting dispensations under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 to enable a member or co-opted Member to participate in a meeting of the Authority

The Committee has appointed three ad-hoc sub committees / panels as follows:

Initial Assessment Panel

3 Members plus Independent Person. The panel is responsible for:

- Receiving and determining whether to refer for investigation or other appropriate action, any written complaints regarding alleged mis-conduct and breach of the Code of Conduct by any Borough Councillor or Town or Parish Councillor within Cheshire East.

Local Resolution Panel

3 Members plus Independent Person. The panel is responsible for:

- The hearing and determination of complaints referred to it by the Initial Assessment Panel that there has been a breach of the Code of Conduct by any Borough Councillor or any Town or Parish Councillor within Cheshire East. The panel will act in consultation with the Independent Person.
- Matters may be referred for external investigation should the panel consider it appropriate due to the complexity of the matter or if serious issues emerge.

Hearing Sub Committee

3 Members plus Independent Person. The sub committee is responsible for:

- Consideration of the written report of the external investigator in relation to a complaint that a Borough Councillor or Town or Parish Council Member has broken the Code of Conduct and the determination of any appropriate action in consultation with the Independent Person.