

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO:	Council	27 July 2006
AUTHOR/S:	Chief Executive / Democratic Services Manager	

REVISIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION – STANDARDS COMMITTEE (ARTICLE 9)

Recommendations

- Article 9.01, the Committee**
Add the words in **bold**:
The Council meeting will establish **and maintain** a Standards Committee. **Under the regulations, Standards Committees are not subject to the political balance requirements of sections 15-17 of the *Local Government and Housing Act 1989*. This is to allow the standards committee to be seen as being above party politics and comprised of representatives that command the support of the whole authority, regardless of party political loyalties. The Standards Committee should include an equal number of representatives from all parties represented on the council and should be constituted to ensure that no one political group dominates.**
- Article 9.02(a), Composition**
Amend to (amendments in **bold**): "The Standards Committee will be composed of **at least**:

6 councillors, **excluding members of the executive**, (Council members)

4 persons who are not councillors or officers of the council or any other relevant body (Independent members)

3 members of parish councils in the Council's area; (Parish members)

At least 25% of the members of the Standards Committee must be Independent members."
- Article 9.02(b), Council Members**
Amend to **"The Council will appoint the Council Members, an equal number being appointed from each recognised political group."**
- Article 9.02(c), Independent Members**
Amend the wording of the second bullet point to:
"Their appointment shall be **ratified** by Council on the recommendation of the appointments panel **of the Standards Committee, its size and composition to be determined by the Chairman in consultation with the Monitoring Officer."**

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

SCDC Constitution
Standards Board for England Guidance

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