

**Standards Panel Procedure**

1. Appointment of Chairperson of the Panel
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Opening remarks of the Chairperson
4. Panel to determine whether the exemption to exclude the press and public is to be maintained. (Parties invited to make representations)
5. Complainant (or representative) invited to make opening remarks
6. Subject Councillor (or representative) invited to make opening remarks
7. Investigator to present his/her report
8. Parties invited to question the investigator and/or seek points of clarification on the report
9. Panel to question the investigator on his/her report
10. Complainant (or representative) invited to make final submissions
11. Panel to seek clarification on any points relevant to the Complainant
12. Subject Councillor (or representative) invited to make final submissions
13. Panel to seek clarification on any points relevant to the Subject Councillor
14. Panel to invite the views of the Independent Person for consideration
15. Panel hearing adjourned to allow for deliberation (as deemed appropriate the Panel)
16. Panel hearing resumed for decision
17. If the Panel decision upholds/finds a breach of the Code, the Subject Councillor (or representative) shall be invited to make submissions in respect of any mitigation (including in respect of actions the Standards Panel can take) for consideration by the Panel
18. Panel hearing adjourned to allow for deliberation (if deemed necessary by the Panel)
19. Panel hearing resumed for decision on actions (if any) the Standards Panel have decided to take.

The Chairperson and Panel shall have discretion to vary the above procedure if it is considered appropriate and necessary to ensure fairness to all parties.