

DRAFT STANDARDS COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2014-15**STANDARDS COMMITTEE****17th JULY 2014****CLASSIFICATION:****Open****WARD(S) AFFECTED****All Wards****CORPORATE DIRECTOR****Gifty Edila, Corporate Director of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services**

1. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In line with established good practice, the Standards Committee sets out a work programme to help it focus its attention on promoting and maintaining high ethical standards among Members of the Council.
- 1.2 This report outlines the areas of work which the Committee will be undertaking under the new arrangements while building on what has been achieved in the last few years to strengthen the ethical governance arrangements of the Council.
- 1.3 The report therefore invites the Committee to agree a work programme for the year 2014-15.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **Standards Committee is asked to agree the draft work programme for 2014-15 as detailed in Appendix 1 to this report.**

3. REASON FOR DECISION

- 3.1 Issues concerning ethical governance including the promotion and maintenance of high ethical standards among Members of the Council are within the remit of the Committee. Agreement of the Committee's work programme would therefore enhance the work of the Committee.

4. COMMENTS OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND RESOURCES

- 4.1 This report seeks agreement for the work programme of the Standards Committee and does not have financial implications.

5. COMMENTS OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL, HR AND REGULATORY SERVICES

- 5.1 The work programme enables the Council to discharge its legal obligation under the Localism Act 2011, to promote and maintain high standards in public office.

6. BACKGROUND/DETAIL

- 6.1 The Localism Act 2011 places an obligation on the Council to ensure that high ethical standards are promoted and maintained among its Members. At the Council meeting on 28 March 2012, the Council appointed the Standards Committee to ensure high ethical standards in the Council. The suggested work programme attached at Appendix 1 is intended to help the Committee to focus attention on its responsibilities and duties, with particular attention on ensuring all Members receive appropriate training and complete their register of interests forms following the local elections.

- 6.2 There is some flexibility to add items to the work programme subject to time and resources. New areas of work may also be undertaken as the new ethical governance arrangements settle. In line with the Committee's terms of reference, this will include training for all Members of the Council on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct (e.g. handling of complaints about Member conduct) and the ethical framework. As a consequence, other activities outside formal meetings will also be programmed in the course of the year to enhance the work of the Committee.
- 6.3 Complaints received in the year may necessitate additional meetings being held by a Sub-Committee of the Standards Committee.

Gifty Edila
Corporate Director
Legal, HR and Regulatory Services

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Draft Standards Committee Work Programme 2014-15

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No documents which require listing been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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