

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2019/2020****STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

14 July 2020

**COUNCIL**

TBC

**CLASSIFICATION:**

Open

**WARD(S) AFFECTED**

All Wards

**Dawn Carter-McDonald  
Director of Legal and Governance (Acting)**

## **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report gives an overview of the work and activities of the Standards Committee over the past year 2019/20 and provides information on the monitoring of the Members' Code of Conduct.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **That the Standards Committee considers the Annual Report for 2019/20, as attached at Appendix 1 & 2 , and endorse it for submission to Full Council.**
- 2.2 **That Full Council notes the Standards Committee's Annual Report for 2019/20, as attached at Appendix 1 & 2.**

## **3. RELATED DECISIONS**

- 3.1 This is the eighth Annual Report of the Standards Committee established by the Council on 1 July 2012.

## **4. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES**

- 4.1 This report sets out the work and activities of the Standards Committee over the previous municipal year and therefore does not contain any potential financial implications.

## **5. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE**

- 5.1 The Council has a legal duty under the Localism Act 2011, to promote and maintain high standards of conduct of Members and co-opted Members in public office.
- 5.2 The Council therefore established a Standards Committee to help promote and uphold high standards of conduct amongst Members and co-opted Members.

## **6. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

- 6.1 This Annual Report is submitted to Council in line with best practice for the Council to maintain an overview of the work of the Standards Committee. This is the eighth Annual Report of the Standards Committee established by the Council following implementation of the Localism Act 2011 and the introduction of related ethical governance arrangements.
- 6.2 In upholding high standards the Committee monitors and makes recommendations on the Members' Code of Conduct and considers complaints made under the Code.

6.3 The Standards Committee during 2019/20 undertook work in the following areas, which are explained in further detail in Appendix 1 of this report:

- Members Code of Conduct
- Review of the Register of Members' and Co-optees Declaration of interests form
- Granting of dispensation to Members regarding declarations in relation to the Local Government Pensions Scheme
- Appointment of Co-opted Members to Standards Committee
- Review of the number of complaints about Members
- Update on the outcome of the Committee of Standards in Public Life Consultation
- Review of best practice of the Local authority in respect of its members code of conduct

**Dawn Carter-McDonald**  
**Director of Legal & Governance (Acting)**

**APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Standards Committee Annual Report 2019/20

Appendix 2 – Best Practice recommendations

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