

FULL COUNCIL
11 July 2024

PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

AGENDA ITEM No.

TITLE OF REPORT: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

REPORT OF MONITORING OFFICER

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

COUNCIL PRIORITY: PEOPLE FIRST/SUSTAINABILITY/ A BRIGHTER FUTURE TOGETHER

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This is the Annual Report in relation to ethical standards for the last year. It covers the work of the Committee as well as the issues that have arisen locally and nationally on ethical standards matters.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. That Council receives and notes the Annual Report, as Appendix A.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 In line with recommended good governance practice to report the work of Standards Committee to the full Membership, to promote and maintain high standards of conduct and to demonstrate a strong commitment to ethical values.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 The Alternative would be not to produce an annual report, but this would be contrary to the Committee on Standards in Public Life 2019 recommendations.

5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

5.1 Consultation has taken place with the Chair and Vice Chair during the year, on the topics within this report; and where relevant/ applicable with the Standards Committee as part of their deliberations on the topics detailed. Group Leaders are also kept informed of any relevant developments as part of their monthly briefings with the Monitoring Officer. Quarterly meetings are also scheduled between the Monitoring Officer, Deputies, Chair, Vice Chair with the Independent Persons, to discuss standards matters.

6. FORWARD PLAN

6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on an Executive key decision and has therefore not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

7. BACKGROUND

7.1 See attached report at Appendix A.

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 See attached report at Appendix A.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Full Council receives an annual report as per 4.4.1 (ee). Whilst there is no overriding legislation that requires an annual report, this was introduced as part of Full Councils remit, following the CSPL report, as it is good practice to report such matters to the whole membership.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no capital or revenue implications arising from the content of this report.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Good Risk Management supports and enhances the decision-making process, increasing the likelihood of the Council meeting its objectives and enabling it to respond quickly and effectively to change. When taking decisions, risks and opportunities must be considered.

11.2 Appropriate policy frameworks help to ensure good governance of the Council and therefore reduce risk of poor practice or unsafe decision making.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

12.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. There are no direct equalities implications from this report.

12.2 Good governance and high ethical standards of conduct ensure that local government decisions are taken in the public interest.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

13.1 The Social Value Act and “go local” policy do not apply to this report as this is not a procurement or contract.

14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

14.1 There are no financial implications to this report.

15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

15.1 None other than again highlighting the ongoing resource implications for the complaints received.

16. APPENDICES

15.1 Appendix A – Standards Committee Annual Report 2023/24

17. CONTACT OFFICERS

16.1 Jeanette Thompson Service Director: Legal and Community (& Monitoring Officer):
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18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

17.1 None other than those referred to in Appendix A (and associated links) none.