

REPORT OF:	Director HR, Governance & Engagement
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TO:	Standards Committee
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DATE:	21 July 2021
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SUBJECT: Proposed Work Programme 2021/22

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To establish the work programme of the Standards Committee for Municipal Year 2021/22

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to agree its work programme for Municipal Year 2021/22

3. BACKGROUND

The Committee's role is as set out in the Constitution and to effect business, it is suggested that the Committee set out a work programme for the Municipal year ahead.

At their meeting in March the Committee agreed that in the work programme for the new Municipal year it should develop a **protocol for adoption in respect of the `chat function` in `on line`** council meetings. This be included on the Agenda for discussion at this meeting.

Also included for the first meeting of the Municipal Year is the **training programme for councillors**.

Personal Safety for Members remains a continuing concern with the number of incidents of abuse via social media or direct physical confrontations being noted nationally as on the increase. The Committee has previously approved the adoption of local Guidance supplementing that provided by the Local Government Association and may consider that it would be appropriate to review and re-fresh this Guidance during the course of this year.

In 2020/21 the Committee considered the Code of Conduct and in particular whether to maintain the local arrangements, with some improvements or adopt the relatively recently developed LGA model code. The Full Council subsequently approved the continuation of the **local updated Code of Conduct** in March 2021. The Committee may consider scheduling towards the end of the 2021/22 Municipal Year a review of the options after 12 months operation of the updated local Code.

The Committee is invited to also consider **any other areas/issues** it would wish to include in the 2021/22 work programme.

4. RATIONALE

The Committee is encouraged to set a work programme for the year which provide information in an open and transparent manner on the focus of its business. Setting work programmes is considered best practice.

The Committee is invited to consider its work programme for 2021/22.

In recent years work of the Committee has included a full review of the `Complaints` arrangements, the Code of Conduct and related aspects of the Council's website, the establishment of a `member to member` expectations code and considered safety and well-being of members.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The role, function and responsibilities of the Standards Committee are set out in the Constitution. The work programme should reflect these responsibilities.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

A governance framework in local authorities is necessary to promote and maintain high ethical standards, and to ensure public confidence.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None contained in this report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

Not applicable to this report.

Chief Officer/Member

Contact Officer: David Fairclough

Date: 2nd July 2021

Background Papers: The Localism Act 2011