



REPORT OF:	The Monitoring Officer
TO:	Standards Committee
ON:	22 June 2022

SUBJECT: Standards Committee Work Programme 2023/24

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To establish the work programme of the Standards Committee for 2023/24.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is requested to consider the work programme for 2023/24, as outlined in this report.

3. BACKGROUND

The Standard's Committee's role and function is contained in the constitution, which includes monitoring the operation of the Council's standards arrangements and to make such recommendations to the Council as the Committee considers appropriate with respect to:

- the promotion and maintenance of high standards in the conduct of council and Parish/Town Councils business, and in the conduct of Members;
- the maintenance and review of a Code of Conduct for Members of the Council, together with such other code, procedure, protocol or guidance as the Committee considers to be appropriate and to make recommendations to the Council on such codes and regulations;
- the provision of training, guidance and assistance for Members in relation to the Council's Code of Conduct for Members and any other such code, procedure or protocol.

The Committee could consider the following areas/topics and make appropriate recommendations:

- Member's Code of Conduct: consider any update to the BwD Member's Code of Conduct and consider adoption of the Local Government Association (LGA) Model Code of Conduct for Members.
- Register of Member's Interests.
- Arrangements for dealing complaints made against councillors: consider and review of existing procedure.
- Protocol on Member/Officer relations: consideration and review of the existing protocol.
- Guidance on Personal References
- Development of Planning Protocol for Members
- Gifts & Hospitality Guidance for Members

- Social Media Guidance for Members
- Use of Council Resources Guidance for Members
- Review of DBS Procedures for Members

Standing items would be the Monitoring Officer's report on Member Complaints and any national standards issues/update.

The Committee is invited to also consider any other areas/topics it would wish to include in the 2023/24 work programme.

4. RATIONALE

In addition to considering standing items such as the Monitoring Officer's report on member complaints and any national standards issues/update, 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 also considered best practice.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council has a duty under section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by its members and to adopt a code of conduct that is consistent with the Nolan Principles. A planned work programme to deal with the specific roles and functions of the Committee, as set out in the constitution, will assist in compliance with this duty.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

8. CONSULTATIONS

None.

Chief Officer/Member

Contact Officer: Asad Laher, Deputy Director – Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer.

Date: 9th June 2023

Background Papers: None