

REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Councillor Saima Afzal

**PORTFOLIO COORDINATING
DIRECTOR: David Fairclough**

Declarations of Interest

The Committee received an update on the progress towards completion of the Declarations of interest by all Elected Members for municipal year 2019/20. These declarations to be published on the Council website.

Member Training & Induction

The Committee received a presentation on the MeLearning training portal. The Committee resolved that in response to feedback previously received and in recognition of the move to digital solutions, most elected member training from 2019/20 will be via `e-learning` through the MeLearning platform. On the portal members will have access to over 200 courses, with some being specifically designed for elected members. Although we have progressed to implement the digital training platform for use by Councillors, the Committee confirmed there will remain a minimum of 4 Strategic Development Sessions spread across the year where all 51 Councillors will be invited to a traditional `classroom` style training events ensuring engagement and interaction with senior officers on a range of important areas/issues. The Standards Committee approved these as including:

Corporate Parenting – A Member Guide

Adult Safeguarding – A Member Guide

Local Government Finance – A Member Guide

Equality & Inclusion – A Member Guide

DBS Policy for Councillors

At their meeting in March 2019 the Council Forum had agreed to progress with a DBS process for Councillors. The Council Forum in order to implement the new arrangements asked that the Monitoring Officer develop a DBS Policy incorporating these new arrangements as set out in the report to Council Forum in consultation with the Standards Committee, bringing the Policy for approval of full council in the summer. The Standards Committee considered and approved this report and their report is set out separately on this Agenda.

Complaints Update

The Committee received an update on complaints received regarding Members Conduct under the Arrangements for dealing with complaints about the `Code of Conduct for Members`. The report covered the period up to Friday 31st May 2019. The Committee will be kept up to date on complaints receive throughout the year, how these are being dealt with and outcomes.

Work Programme for the Committee

The Committee determined their main the work programme for 2019/20. The Committee will work on the development of the Strategic Development Session in respect of Equality and Inclusion to ensure a particular focus on roles and responsibilities of elected members, to provide guidance education and support. The Committee will also review the progress and implementation of the MeLearning Portal for use by Councillors and monitor and consider related performance reports. The Committee also resolved to review and evolve the latest guidance for members in respect of Social Media and new channels of engagement with the public and communities and how they are used appropriately by Councillors. The Committee may add to this programme at their next meeting.

Councillor Saima Afzal
Chair of the Standards Committee.