

The Standards Committee Work/Action Plan up to 31 March 2023

The Standards Committee is responsible for the Authority's statutory duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by the Elected Mayor, Councillors and Co-opted Members. The Committee has worked to discharge this duty by undertaking the following actions:

Action	Why	By When	Progress
To implement the revised Code of Conduct and the revised Local Arrangements for Dealing with Complaints Against Councillors, including the two stage assessment criteria for Code of Conduct complaints, which were agreed in May 2022.	<p>A Working Group of Members of the Standards Committee undertook a review of the Code of Conduct and Local Arrangements for Dealing with Complaints during 2022 in line with best practice advise published by the LGA.</p> <p>A revised version of the documents were agreed by Council in May 2022 and have been in place since.</p>	May 2022	Completed

<p>To undertake a recruitment process to appoint Independent Persons as the term of office for the current Independent Persons comes to an end, and to make recommendations to Council.</p>	<p>To ensure that at least one (and up to three) Independent Persons are in place, in line with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011.</p>	<p>31 July 2022</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>3 Independent Persons recruited and in place from 31 July 2022.</p>
<p>To extend a meeting invitation to guests and to seek topics of conversation from those guests in relation to ethical governance and standards. This could include the Elected Mayor, the Chief Executive, Senior Leadership Team, Group Leaders, the Chair and Deputy Chair of Council and the Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Planning Committee and other Regulatory Committees.</p>	<p>To develop a dialogue between the Committee, and members and appropriate Officers relating to ethical governance and ethical standards.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>

To invite Chairs of Standards Committees from other Authorities in the region to attend Committee meetings and to seek opportunities to attend Standards Committee meetings in neighbouring authorities.	To provide an opportunity to understand ethical governance and standards issues in other Authorities.	Ongoing	Ongoing
To review training available to all Council Members on ethical governance, ethical standards issues including arrangements with respect to the Code of Conduct; granting of dispensations, the use of Social Media and declaring interests.	To ensure all members receive information on ethical governance, ethical standards to minimise risk of unwitting breaches of the Code of Conduct.	Ongoing	Recent training has included an additional element on social media. Following positive feedback there is an intention to continue to include information on social media in future training sessions.
Continue production of Annual Standards Committee Report	Presentation of Annual Report of the work of the Committee during the previous 12 months.	By end of each municipal year.	Completed

<p>To provide training to the Independent Persons on their role, this to include invitations to relevant training for Members.</p>	<p>To ensure that the Authority's Independent Persons understand their role in relation to ethical governance and the Code of Conduct for Members as well as the disciplinary procedures for Statutory Officers.</p>		<p>Completed</p> <p>Training has been provided to all new Independent Persons on commencement of the role.</p>
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