

# North Tyneside Council

## Report to Standards Committee

### Annual Report 2023–2024

**Date: 4 April 2024**

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**Report from Service Area: Law and Governance**

**Report Author: Stephen Ballantyne, Head of Law and Monitoring Officer (Tel: 643 5354)**

**Wards affected: All**

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#### **1. Purpose**

To introduce the Standards Committee Draft Annual Report for 2023–24 for consideration by the Committee prior to its finalisation and submission to the Annual Council meeting on 16 May 2023.

#### **2. Recommendations**

The Committee is requested to:

- (1) Consider and suggest any additions and amendments to the draft Annual Report 2023–24 attached at Appendix 1 as appropriate; and
- (2) Authorise the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chair of the Standards Committee to finalise the report, taking into account any comments received pursuant to recommendation (1) above, prior to its submission to the Annual Council meeting to be held on 16 May 2024.

#### **3. Background**

At the end of the municipal year the Standards Committee is required to approve the contents of a draft annual report summarising the work of the Committee over the previous year for submission to the Annual Council meeting.

The Committee is responsible for the promotion of ethical standards within the Authority, helping to secure adherence to the Members' Code of Conduct, monitoring the operation of the Code within North Tyneside, promoting and reviewing the Whistleblowing Policy for Members and conducting hearings following investigation and determining complaints made against Councillors in respect of alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct (including following requests for review).

The Standards Committee Draft Annual Report 2023-24 is attached at Appendix 1. The report sets out the work undertaken by the Standards Committee and its Sub-Committees over the municipal year.

The Committee will consider its work programme for the new municipal year 2023-24 at its first meeting of the new year in June 2023.

#### **4. Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Standards Committee Draft Annual Report 2022-23.

#### **5. Contact officers:**

Louise Watson, Senior Manager Legal Services and Registration (0191) 643 5325

John Barton, Principal Lawyer and Deputy Monitoring Officer (0191) 643 5354

Sonia Stewart, Democratic Services Manager (0191) 643 5359

#### **6. Background information:**

None.