

North Tyneside Council

Report to Annual Council

Date: 16 May 2024

Title: Standards Committee Annual Report: 2023/24

Portfolio(s): Elected Mayor	Cabinet Member(s): Dame Norma Redfearn DBE
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Report from Service

Area: Legal

Responsible Officer: Stephen Ballantyne, Head of Law and Monitoring Officer (Tel: (0191) 643 5329)

Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

To submit the Standards Committee's Annual Report for 2023/24.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Council note and receive the Standards Committee's Annual Report for 2023/24.

1.3 Forward Plan:

Twenty eight days notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 5 April 2024.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report does not relate directly to any of the themes/programmes/projects in the Our North Tyneside Plan.

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 Background

The Standards 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,
- reviewing complaints made against Members in respect of alleged breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct and conducting hearings following investigation; and
- determining complaints made against Councillors in respect of alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct.

The Standards Committee Annual Report 2023/24 is attached at Appendix 1.

The report provides further background information regarding the Standards Committee and sets out the work undertaken by the Committee and its Sub-Committees over the municipal year.

The Committee will consider its work programme for the new municipal year 2024/25 at its first meeting of the new municipal year in June 2024.

1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by Council:

Option 1

To note and receive the Annual Reports of the Standards Committee for 2023/24.

Option 2

To refer the Annual Report of the Standards Committee for 2023/24 back to the Standards Committee for further consideration.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

Option 1 is recommended for the following reason:

The Annual Report of the Standards Committee for 2023/24 provides a record of the work of the Standards Committee over the past year.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix 1: Standards Committee Annual Report 2023/24.

1.9 Contact officers:

Stephen Ballantyne – Head of Law and Monitoring Officer – Tel: (0191) 643 5329

Louise Watson – Senior Manager, Legal Services – Tel: (0191) 643 5325

John Barton – Regulatory Team Manager, Legal Services – Tel: (0191) 643 5354

Sonia Stewart – Democratic Services Manager – Tel: (0191) 643 5359

David Mason, Head of Finance – Tel: (0191) 643 8109

1.10 Background information:

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

- The Localism Act 2011.
- The Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members.

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

2.2 Legal

The Localism Act 2011 places a statutory duty on the Authority to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by its elected and co-opted Members and adopt a Code dealing with the conduct that is expected of Members and Co-opted Members when they are acting in that capacity. It also requires the Authority to appoint at least one Independent Person whose views are sought

and taken into account before it makes a decision on how a complaint should proceed.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

The Standards Committee at its meeting on 4 April 2024 considered and approved the Annual Report and referred it to this Council meeting.

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

There has been no external consultation in relation to the Annual Report as it relates to the internal governance of the Authority.

2.4 Human rights

There are no human rights issues arising from this report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

There are no equalities and diversity issues arising from this report.

2.6 Risk management

There are no risk management issues arising from this report.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder issues arising from this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environment and sustainability issues arising from this report.

PART 3 – SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive X
- Director(s) of Service X
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s) X
- Chief Finance Officer X
- Monitoring Officer X
- Assistant Chief Executive X