

### The Standards Committee Work/Action Plan up to 31 March 2020

This Action Plan was monitored by the Committee at each meeting.

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
1. Monitor the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct and undertake a review of the Committee for Standards in Public Life's report on Local Government Ethical Standards to identify where the Authority is already meeting best practice and where there are areas where the Authority's arrangements could be improved.	To ensure that it is operating effectively	Ongoing	The review of the Members' Code of Conduct is being undertaken as a part of the larger review of the Authority's Constitution. Unfortunately this has not progressed because of the coronavirus restrictions but remains a live matter to be completed.
2. To review the Authority's Local Arrangements for dealing with Complaints under the Code of Conduct.	To ensure that the Authority's Local Arrangements meet the requirements and expectations of the Members and the relevant legislation.	Ongoing	As above

<p>3. To continue to develop an ongoing programme of meetings with invited guests, including 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>The Chair of the Planning Committee was due to attend the meeting of the Committee in April but the meeting was unable to go ahead due to Coronavirus restrictions. This will be re-arranged for a future meeting.</p>
<p>4. Regional meetings of the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of Standards Committees and Independent Persons be arranged in consultation with other regional authorities</p>	<p>To provide an opportunity to share knowledge and best practice.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>A regional training event/seminar was arranged by North Tyneside Council and held at Quadrant on 17 February 2020. The theme of the session was 'Developments in Governance'. The event was well attended by representatives of authorities across the north east and North Yorkshire.</p>

<p>5. 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</p>	<p>To ensure all members receive information on ethical governance, ethical standards to minimise risk of unwitting breaches of the Code of Conduct.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Code of Conduct training was held for members in October 2019. This 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.</p>
<p>6. To seek the further promotion with all Members of the Authority's e-learning training on the use social media.</p>	<p>To assist the Authority to fulfil its statutory duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>As above</p>
<p>7. Continue production of Annual Standards Committee Report</p>	<p>Presentation of Annual Report of the work of the Committee during the previous 12 months.</p>	<p>By end of each municipal year.</p>	<p>Completed.</p>
<p>8. 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>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

9. To update where necessary and recirculate the pocket guide to the Code of Conduct and the requirements in relation to interests to all Members.	To assist Members in how the Code of Conduct applies to them.	December 2019	Completed.
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