

North Tyneside Council

Report to Annual Council

20 May 2021

Title: Standards Committee Annual Report: 2019-20 and 2020-21

Portfolio(s): Elected Mayor	Cabinet Member(s): Mrs N Redfearn
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Report from Service Area:	Law and Governance	
Responsible Officer:	Bryn Roberts, Head of Law and Governance	Tel: (0191) 643 5339
Wards affected:	All	

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary

To submit the Standards Committee's Annual Reports for 2020-21 and 2019-20.

1.2 Recommendation(s)

Council is requested to note and receive the Standards Committee's Annual Report for 2020-21 and 2019-20.

1.3 Forward Plan

This report first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 23 April 2021.

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 Standards Committee Annual Report 2020-21

1.5.1 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 2020-21 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-Committee over the municipal year.

The Committee will consider its work programme for the new municipal year 2021-22 at its first meeting of the new municipal year in June 2021.

1.6 Standards Committee Annual Reports 2019-20

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Standards Committee Annual Report 2019-20 could not be submitted to Annual Council in May 2020. The report is therefore being submitted to this meeting, alongside the Standards Committee Annual Report 2020-21.

1.7 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 2020/21 and 2019/20.

Option 2

To refer the Annual Report of the Standards Committee for 2020/21 and/or 2019/20 back to the Standards Committee for further consideration.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.8 Reasons for recommended option

Option 1 is recommended for the following reason:

The Annual Reports of the Standards Committee for 2020/21 and 2019/20 provide a record of the work of the Standards Committee over the past two years.

1.9 Appendices

Appendix 1 - Standards Committee Annual Report 2020/21
Appendix 2 - Standards Committee Annual Report 2019/20.

1.10 Contact officers

John Barton – Lawyer, Law and Governance – Tel: (0191) 643 5354
Joanne Holmes – Democratic Services Officer – Tel: (0191) 643 5315
Claire Emmerson – Senior Manager Financial Strategy and Planning – Tel: (0191) 643 8109.

1.8 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 to appoint Independent Persons.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

The Standards Committee at its meeting on 8 April 2021 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
- Head of Service X
- Chief Finance Officer X
- Monitoring Officer X
- Head of Corporate Strategy and Customer Service X