

North Tyneside Council Report to Annual Council 16 May 2019

ITEM 14

Standards Committee -
Annual Report 2018/19

Portfolio(s): Elected Mayor

Cabinet Member(s): Mrs N Redfearn

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 Report for 2018/19.

1.2 Recommendation(s)

Council is requested to note and receive the Standards Committee's Annual Report 2018/19.

1.3 Forward Plan

This report first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 18 April 2019.

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 2018/19

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 2018/19 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 report highlights the ways in which the Standards Committee has influenced and shaped policy and the promotion and maintenance of ethical standards of conduct by the Elected Mayor, Councillors, Co-opted Members and church and parent governor representatives.

The Committee will consider its work programme for the new municipal year 2019/20 at its first meeting of the new municipal year in June 2019.

1.5.2 Decision options

The following decision options are available for consideration by Council:

Option 1

To note and receive the Annual Report of the Standards Committee for 2018/19.

Option 2

To refer the Annual Report of the Standards Committee for 2018/19 back to the Standards Committee for further consideration.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.6 Reasons for recommended option

Option 1 is recommended for the following reason:

The Annual Report of the Standards Committee for 2018/19 provides a record of the work of the Standards Committee over the past year.

1.7 Appendices

Appendix 1 - Standards Committee Annual Report 2018/19.

1.8 Contact officers

Stephen Ballantyne – Legal Manager – Governance and Employment, Law and Governance – Tel: (0191) 643 5329.

Joanne Holmes – Democratic Services Officer – Tel: (0191) 643 5315

Claire Emmerson – Senior Manager Financial Strategy and Planning – Tel: (0191) 643 8109.

1.9 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 20 March 2019 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