

The Standards Committee Work/Action Plan up to 31 March 2022

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
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish a working group (as agreed at the April 2021 meeting) to review the Code of Conduct against the LGA model Code of Conduct and guidance, and consider any changes to be made. 2. The working group to report the outcome to Standards Committee by November 2021. 	<p>To ensure that the Code of Conduct is in line with best practice.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Working Group considered the Code of Conduct against the LGA model Code of Conduct and guidance and recommended substantial changes to the Code in line with the model Code.</p> <p>The recommendations of the Working Group were reported to the Standards Committee on 3 November 2021. It was agreed that the revised Code should be referred to the Constitution Task Group, with a recommendation from the Committee that the revised code be accepted and referred to full Council for approval.</p>

<p>3. To expand the remit of the Code of Conduct Working Group to review the Council's Local Arrangements for Dealing with Complaints Against Councillors, in the light of recent guidance from the LGA.</p>	<p>To ensure that the Authority's Local Arrangements meet the requirements and expectations of the Members and the relevant legislation, and is in line with best practice.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Working Group has undertaken a review of the Local Arrangements against the LGA guidance and has recommended some revisions to the Local Arrangements. The revised document was considered by the Standards Committee in April and referred to the Constitution Task Group.</p>
<p>4. 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 provided his views to the Committee in June in relation to his time as Chair of Planning Committee.</p>
<p>5. Regional meetings of the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of Standards Committees and Independent Persons be arranged in consultation</p>	<p>To provide an opportunity to share knowledge and best practice.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Due to disruptions caused by the Coronavirus pandemic this has not been progressed during 2021-22.</p>

with other regional authorities			
6. The seek opportunities for members to attend Standards Committee meetings at neighbouring authorities.	To provide an opportunity to understand ethical governance and standards issues in other Authorities and aid best practice.	Ongoing	Neighbouring authorities contacted about future meeting dates. Members had an opportunity to view on-line meetings of a neighbouring authority in January 2022.
7. 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	To ensure all members receive information on ethical governance, ethical standards to minimise risk of unwitting breaches of the Code of Conduct.	Ongoing	Recent training has 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.
8. To seek the further promotion with all Members of the Authority's e-learning training on the use social media.	To assist the Authority to fulfil is statutory duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct.	Ongoing	As above
9. Continue production of Annual Standards Committee Report	Presentation of Annual Report of the work of the Committee during the previous 12 months.	By end of each municipal year.	Completed.

10. To provide training to the Independent Persons on their role, this to include invitations to relevant training for Members.	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.	Ongoing	Ongoing