

ETHICAL STANDARDS AND MEMBER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

13 August 2020

Subject:	Standards Working Group Update
Director:	Director of Law and Governance & Monitoring Officer - Surjit Tour
Contribution towards Vision 2030:	
Contact Officer(s):	Elaine Newsome – Service Manager Democracy

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

1. Notes the updates from Standards Working Group in relation to the review of the Code of Conduct/Arrangements for Dealing with Standards Allegations.
2. Approves the scope and methodology for the review of the Code of Conduct/Arrangements for Dealing with Standards Allegations by the Standards Working Group.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The Standards Working Group was convened by the Committee with a remit to review the Council’s Ethical Framework. The Group has met on three occasions and an update is provided to the Committee on outstanding issues and consideration of the scope/methodology of the forthcoming review of the Code of Conduct/Arrangements for Dealing with Standards Allegations.

2 **IMPLICATIONS FOR VISION 2030**

- 2.1 This matter falls within the Council's Governance agenda which sits at the heart of delivering Vision 2030.

3 **BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 The Standards Working Group has met on three occasions and the following matters have been considered with updates provided:-

- **Review of the Code of Conduct and Arrangements for Dealing with Standards Allegations**

It is proposed that the review will take place in the Autumn once the LGA have published the Code. The proposed scope of the review and methodology is attached as an appendix for consideration.

- **DBS Checks**

The working group have undertaken to explore corporate policy options in relation to DBS checks for elected members. The latest eligibility guidance is attached for information and will be considered at the next meeting of the working group.

- **Registers** – officers are looking at a self-service option on CMIS or a facility within the new member portal to enable members to make revisions to their register of interest. An update will be provided to a future meeting.
- **Retention Policy for Registers** – a report will be submitted to the next meeting of the Standards Working Group with recommendations.
- **Casework** – concerns were expressed by members that there was no clear guidance with regard to information gathered in relation to casework. A template will be circulated to all elected members to assist with casework/surgeries in relation to GDPR;
- **Remuneration for Independent Persons** – further to Minute No. 32/19 (4 October 2019) research is currently being undertaken with regard to remuneration for Independent Persons and this will be included as part of the review of the Code/Arrangements in the Autumn.

4 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)

4.1 Not applicable.

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

5.1 Where necessary, reports will be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee outlining all options.

6 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct resource implications arising from this report. However, should there be a future policy decision on the introduction of DBS checks, then appropriate resources would need to be identified.

7 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 The Council has a statutory duty under the Localism Act 2011 to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by its elected members.

8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

8.1 None associated with this report.

9 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9.1 None associated with this report.

10 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT

10.1 The proposed revised code of conduct forms part of a wider piece of work by the LGA to explore civility in public life.

11 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS

11.1 The Council has a responsibility to ensure that the Monitoring Officer is appropriately resourced in order to that they are able to carry out their statutory functions.

12 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)

12.1 None associated with this report.

13 IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND

13.1 None associated with this report.

14 CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to notes the updates from Standards Working Group in relation to the review of the Code of Conduct/Arrangements for Dealing with Standards Allegations and to approve the scope/ methodology for the forthcoming review.

15 BACKGROUND PAPERS

15.1 None associated with this report.

16 APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Proposed scope/methodology for review of Code of Conduct and Arrangements for Dealing with Standards Allegations
Appendix 2 – Disclosure and Barring Service Eligibility

Surjit Tour

Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer