

Report to Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee

7 March 2023

Subject:	Work Programme for the 2022/23 Municipal Year
Director:	Surjit Tour - Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer
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1 Recommendations


- 1.1 That the Committee reviews the latest work programme and consideration be given to the suggested changes to the work programme as identified.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 A revised work programme for 2022/2023 is attached at Appendix 1 for the Committee's consideration. The work programme is kept under review through the year and updated at each meeting.
- 2.2 Sub-Committees of the Ethical Standards Committee will deal with any case work.



3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

		High standards of conduct are an essential part of good corporate governance and this in turn has a direct relationship with the delivery of high quality services. A planned work programme will help the Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee in promoting high ethical standards.
		
		

4 Context and Key Issues

The work programme is reviewed at each meeting.

4.1 Review of Composition of Committee

The composition and terms of reference of the Committee will be reviewed as part of the Governance Review to ensure that it is fit for purpose.

4.2 Independent Persons Review

A recruitment exercise is due to commence in the new municipal year. Feedback from the Independent Remuneration Panel is awaited following the benchmarking exercise undertaken around remuneration of independent persons across other local authorities.

4.3 Personal Safety

Following on from the previous work on personal safety of elected members (9 November 2021 - Minute No. 24/21 refers), it is proposed that a review is carried out at the commencement of the municipal year, training will be provided to all elected members and guidance included in the member induction package. Data from any reported incidents is kept under regular review to ensure current practice is fit for purpose.



4.4 Networking Opportunities

Work is underway around developing relationships with neighbouring authorities. Regular discussions take place between Monitoring Officers regarding any training/networking opportunities. The Monitoring Officer will continue to explore these avenues around shared opportunities.

4.5 Duty to Promote High Standards of Conduct

The Committee regularly receives updates on the work of the Committee in Standards in Public Life and a review of best practice recommendations demonstrates the arrangements in place work well. Processes are in place to ensure regular reviews are undertaken to monitor progress. The Leading in Practice review will help underpin the work already undertaken by the authority and provide additional support for learning and development around cultural behaviours.

The work around implementation DBS checks for member demonstrates the desire to ensure member accountability to the electorate with members subject to a greater level of scrutiny.

Work continues around communication and promotion of the work of the Council and its elected members. It is proposed that an Ethical Framework newsletter is developed and launched in the new municipal year which will provide updates to members regularly highlighting training opportunities, good news stories, key diary dates, etc. which will link in to all of the work being undertaken by the Committee and its continuous review.

5 Alternative Options

- 5.1 There are no alternative options. The matters outlined in the work programme fall within the remit of the Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee.



6 Implications

Resources:	There are no resources arising directly from this report.
Legal and Governance:	Whilst there is no longer a statutory requirement to establish a Standards Committee, there is a need to promote high ethical standards so the Council has agreed to continue with an Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee as part of its arrangements to deal with standards.
Risk:	There are no risks arising directly from this report.
Equality:	
Health and Wellbeing:	
Social Value	
Climate Change	

7. Appendices

Latest work programme for the 2022-23 municipal year

8. Background Papers

None

