

# Report to Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee

**4 July 2023**

<b>Subject:</b>	Appointment to Ethical Standards Sub-Committees and Ethical Standards Working Group
<b>Director:</b>	Surjit Tour - Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Surjit Tour

## **1 Recommendations**

That the Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee:

- 2.1 Appoints to two Ethical Standards Sub-Committees for the 2023/24 municipal year, with flexibility between membership to cater for availability and workload, with delegated powers to carry out the functions set out in the following terms of reference, and with the membership set out below:

### Terms of reference of the Ethical Standards Sub Committee

- To consider investigation reports referred to it by the Monitoring Officer.
- To conduct hearings (including the imposition of sanctions).

## Membership







SUB-COMMITTEE 1		SUB-COMMITTEE 2	
Member	Substitute	Member	Substitute
Allcock	Substitute members taken from remainder of committee	Allcock	Substitute members taken from remainder of committee
Kaur		Crompton	
J Giles		Hemingway	
Muflihi		Rahman	
Trumpeter (or sub)		Trumpeter (or sub)	
+ Independent Person		+ Independent Person	

- 2.2 Approves the Terms of Reference for the Ethical Standards Working Group and appoints members (Chair and Vice Chair plus three other members).

## **2 Reasons for Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Localism Act 2011 requires authorities to adopt arrangements for dealing with complaints about breaches of the Member Code of Conduct. The Council's arrangements for dealing with complaints provide for a Sub-Committee of the Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee to consider investigation reports referred to it by the Monitoring Officer and to conduct hearings (including the imposition of sanctions).

## **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.
		
		

## **4 Context and Key Issues**

- 4.1 The Council at its annual meeting held on 23 May 2023 agreed the membership of the Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee. The Committee now needs to make appointments to the Ethical Standards Sub Committees and Working Group.
- 4.2 The Committee is requested to appoint to the Working Group, consisting of the Chair and Vice Chair plus three other members of the Committee (plus the two independent persons). The Terms of Reference for the group is attached at Appendix 1.
- 4.3 The working group is not a decision-making body but will enable matters and issues to be discussed and explored, and reports being prepared for the consideration of the Committee in due course.

## **5 Alternative Options**

- 5.1 The Committee is required to appoint members to the sub-committees to ensure relevant standards complaints are effectively addressed.
- 5.2 The Committee is not required to have a working group, however it is considered good practice to periodically review matters such as the Code of Conduct and Arrangements for dealing with complaints and a working group provides a helpful way to undertake such a review. A working group also enables broader discussion and debate to take place on how the Council can promote and maintain higher standards of conduct.

## 6 Implications

<b>Resources:</b>	There are no resource implications arising directly from this report.
<b>Legal and Governance:</b>	Section 28(6) of the Localism Act 2011 provides that a relevant authority must have in place arrangements under which allegations that a member or co-opted member of the authority has failed to comply with the authority's code of conduct can be investigated, and arrangements under which decisions on allegations can be made. There is no statutory requirement as to the nature of these arrangements.
<b>Risk:</b>	There are no direct risk implications arising from this report.
<b>Equality:</b>	There are no direct equality implications arising from this report.
<b>Health and Wellbeing:</b>	There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.
<b>Social Value</b>	There are no direct social value implications arising from this report.

## 7. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference – Ethical Standards Working Group

## 8. Background Papers

None.