

ETHICAL STANDARDS WORKING GROUP

Terms of Reference

Scope

To review the Council's Ethical Framework, namely:

- Council's Members' Code of Conduct;
- Arrangements for Members' Register and declarations of Interest; and
- Arrangements for Dealing with Standards Allegations under the Localism Act 2011.
- DBS Checks for Members
- Gifts and Hospitality
- Social Media matters affecting members
- Member Development Programme
- Review of Recruitment of Independent Persons

To gather insight, consult and/or gather such data and information from sources as deemed necessary and appropriate to undertake an effective review of the Ethical Framework.

To consider and make recommendations on how the council can discharge its duty to promote high standards of conduct as required under the Localism Act 2011.

To consider and assist the Chairperson of the Committee to formally respond to the Local Authority Ethical Standards: Stakeholder Consultation.

To support the development, implementation and delivery of a revised Elected Member Development Programme.

To support the accreditation process in relation to the West Midlands Member Development Charter.

Membership

Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Standards and Member Development Committee plus three other Members of the Standards and Member Development Committee.

Independent Members shall be entitled to attend meetings of the Working Group in an advisory capacity.

The Working Group may invite other members or third parties to working Group meetings as it considers appropriate and necessary to undertake the review.

Quorate and Meetings

At least three Members of the Working Group.

Meetings shall be held as required.

Chairperson of the Working Group

The Chairperson of the Working Group shall be the Chairperson of the Committee or in his absence the Committee's Deputy Chairperson.

Decision-making

To submit recommendations to the Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee on revisions to the Council's Ethical Framework.

Voting

By majority vote with the Chairperson (or Deputy as applicable) having a casting vote.

Access to Information Rules

The Working Group is not a constitutional meeting of the council or a sub-committee of the Standards and Member Development Committee and as such is not subject to the Access to Information Rules.