

Report to Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee

8 February 2022

Subject:	Work Programme 2021-22
Director:	Surjit Tour - Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer
Contact Officer:	Trisha Newton Trisha_newton@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations






That the Committee notes the updated work programme for 2021/22 and also the work of the Ethical Standards Working Group.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The work programme for 2021/2022 is attached at Appendix 1. The programme covers the areas that are within the remit of the Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee under its current terms of reference and will be submitted to each meeting of the Committee to keep under review.
- 2.2 Sub-Committees of the 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

Following the comprehensive work undertaken by the Committee during the 2020-21 municipal year, involving the review of the Member Code of Conduct, Arrangements for Dealing with Complaints under the Code and related policies, outstanding matters have been built into the programme for this municipal year.

Ethical Standards Working Group

Since the last meeting of the Committee, the Ethical Standards Working Group has met to consider DBS guidance/protocol (report included on agenda), the review of the Independent Persons Protocol, Social Media Policy and Committee on Standards in Public Life Best Practice recommendations (reports included on agenda).

The Working Group recommended that a review be undertaken with regard to recruitment of Independent Persons and a further report will be submitted to a future meeting.

A further meeting of the Working Group is being called to consider the Member Development Programme and a report will be submitted to the Committee in due course.

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	

7. Appendices

Work programme for the 2021-22 municipal year

8. Background Papers

None

