Standards Committee Annual Report

Report to: Council
Ward(s): All
Key Decision: No

Appendix 1: Standards Committee Annual Report - 1st May - 30th April 2019

Recommendation

- That Council receive and note the Standards Committee Annual Report circulated as Appendix 1
- That Council note the recommendation from Standards Committee that group leaders should seek to ensure that group members attend both Code of Conduct training and GDPR
Background, corporate objectives and priorities

The Standards Committee is responsible for maintaining high governance standards within the Council pursuant to the Council’s duties under section 27 of the Localism Act 2011.

Main considerations

1 Executive Summary

1.1 The Standards committee is responsible for promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by members. The Annual report, for noting, provides information on the work of the Standards Committee during the last municipal year and complaint figures for both the last municipal year and for the period July 2017 – April 2018.

2 The Proposal

2.1 To receive the Standards Committee annual report and note its contents and the recommendation on training for members.

3 Key issues for consideration

3.1 The report summarises the work of the committee over the last year. It also contains complaints numbers for the period July 2017 – April 2018 as no annual report was produced for that year.

3.2 During the last municipal year the Standards committee submitted evidence to the Committee on Standards in Public Life seeking increased sanctions for breaches of the Code of Conduct and to promote the role of independent members on the Standards Committee, calling for them to have voting rights.

3.3 The Standards Committee has also considered arrangements for further appointment of Independent Persons and Independent Standards Assessors.

3.4 The Committee also undertook a review on the level of training undertaken by councillors as set out in the report and has recommended that group leaders seek to ensure that all of their group members attend both Code of Conduct training and GDPR training as this is fundamental to ensuring that councillors maintain high standard of conduct to reduce the level of complaints.

3.5 A review of the levels of Code of Conduct and GDPR training has also been undertaken in the parish and town councils as the council is responsible for the conduct of parish and town councils within the borough.

Corporate Implications

4 Legal Implications

None other than as referred to above

5 Financial implications

None
6 Risk management

6.1 A risk assessment has been completed in accordance with the council’s risk management process and has identified no significant (Red or Amber) residual risks that cannot be fully minimised by existing or planned controls or additional procedures.

7 Equalities implications

None

8 Consultation and communication

None

9 HR implications

None

Conclusion

10 Summary and reason for the decision

Council is asked to receive the report and note the work done by Standards Committee its members and co-opted members during the last municipal year to maintain and promote good standards of conduct by members.

Date: July 2019
Decision taken by: Council

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<td>Report author</td>
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<tr>
<td>Version</td>
<td>Final</td>
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<td>Confidentiality</td>
<td>It is considered that information contained within this report and appendix do not contain exempt information under the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and therefore can be made public.</td>
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