



## **Standards Committee Annual Report Report of Monitoring Officer**

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Council</b>
<b>Meeting date:</b>	<b>15 July 2021</b>
<b>Ward(s):</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Appendix 1:</b>	<b>Standards Committee Annual Report 2020 to 2021</b>
<b>Papers relied on:</b>	<b>None</b>

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**Recommendation to Council:**

- **That Council receive and note the Standards Committee Annual Report**

## **Background, corporate objectives and priorities**

The Standards Committee is responsible for maintaining high standards of governance within the Council pursuant to its duties under the Localism Act 2011. The Standards Committee has the role of ensuring that the ethical standards regime forming part of the governance framework of the Council is robust, thereby engendering public confidence that the Council can deliver upon its priorities within the Council Plan.

### **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 is for noting and provides information on the work of the Standards Committee during the last municipal year and complaints made during that year.

#### **2 The Proposal**

- 2.1 To receive the Standards Committee Annual Report and note its contents.

#### **3 Key issues for consideration**

- 3.1 The report summarises the main areas of work of the Committee over the past year and reports upon the annual number of complaints received and the determination or dismissal of the complaints.
- 3.2 The report also reports on the committee's consideration of the recommendations in the report on Ethical Standards from the Committee for Standards in Public Life, the Committee's work in relation to the new Model Code of Conduct published by the Local Government Association, work being undertaken in relation to social media guidance for Councillors and a review of the Register of Gifts and Hospitality.

#### **4 Options Analysis**

- 4.1 An annual report need not be submitted to Council, but not to do so would not recognise the work of the Standards Committee and would not be consistent with the Council's duties to maintain high standards of ethics.

### **Corporate implications**

#### **5 Legal**

- 5.1 None other than referred to in the report.

#### **6 Financial**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications in this report.

## **7 Risk management**

- 7.1 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.

## **8 Equalities**

- 8.1 There are no equality implications in the Annual Report.

## **9 Consultation and communication**

- 9.1 The Standards Committee approved the report at their meeting on 15 March 2021.

## **10 Climate change**

- 10.1 There are no climate implications of this report.

## **11 HR**

- 11.1 The Independent Standards Assessors, Independent Person and Chair and Vice Chair receive an allowance for their duties as set out in the members allowance scheme.

## **Conclusion**

## **12 Summary and reason for the decision**

- 12.1 The Council is asked to receive the report and note the work undertaken by the Standards Committee during the last municipal year to maintain and promote food standards of conduct by members.

**Date: 15 July 2021**  
**Decision taken by: Council**

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