

North Tyneside Council Report to Standards Committee Date: 29 November 2018

ITEM

Title: Action Plan/Work
Programme 2018 - 19

Report from Service

Area: Law and Governance

Report Author: Louise Watson, Senior Manager: Legal Services and Information Governance (Tel: 643 5325)

Wards affected: All

1.1 Purpose:

To advise the Committee of the action plan/work programme of the Committee for the year up to 31 March 2019.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

The Committee is requested to consider and note this report.

1.3 Information

1.3.1 The Standards Committee's Future Work/Action Plan up to 31 March 2018

This Action Plan is monitored by the Committee at each meeting and the progress of the identified actions will be reported in the Committee's Annual Report to Council at the end of the municipal year.

The Standards Committee is responsible for the Authority's statutory duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by the Elected Mayor, Councillors and Co-opted Members.

The Committee are requested to note that some actions may be delayed in their implementation/action pending the appointment of the new Head of Law and Governance.

Action	Why	By When	Progress/Action
Monitor the operation of the new Members' Code of Conduct.	To ensure that it is operating effectively	Ongoing	A study group to be established to undertake review.

<p>To review the Authority's Local Arrangements for dealing with Complaints under the Code of Conduct.</p>	<p>To ensure that the Authority's Local Arrangements meet the requirements and expectations of the Members and the relevant legislation.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>A study group to be established to undertake review.</p>
<p>To continue to develop an ongoing programme of meetings with invited guests, including the Elected Mayor, the Chief Executive, Senior Leadership Team, Group Leaders, the Chair and Deputy Chair of Council and the Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Planning Committee and other Regulatory Committees.</p>	<p>To develop a dialogue between the Committee, and members and appropriate Officers relating to ethical governance and ethical standards.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The programme is being developed.</p>
<p>To invite Chairs of Standards Committees from other Authorities in the region to attend Committee meetings.</p>	<p>To provide an opportunity to understand ethical governance and standards issues in other Authorities.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>To be arranged in consultation with Monitoring Officers in neighbouring authorities.</p>
<p>6 monthly regional meeting of the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of Standards Committees and Independent Persons be arranged in consultation with other regional authorities</p>	<p>To provide an opportunity to share knowledge and best practice.</p>	<p>First meeting by October 2018 and second meeting by 31 March 2019</p>	<p>To be arranged in consultation with Monitoring Officers in neighbouring authorities.</p>
<p>To promote the development of all Members by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seeking the attendance of Regulatory Committee Members (including the Standards Committee) at 	<p>To assist the Authority to fulfil its statutory duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct.</p>	<p>By March 2019</p>	

<p>relevant Committees at neighbouring authorities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encouraging the extension of filming of meetings to include the Planning Committee; and • the provision of training on relevant ethical standards issues. 			
<p>To review training available to all Council Members on ethical governance, ethical standards issues including arrangements with respect to the Code of Conduct; granting of dispensations, the use of Social Media and declaring interests.</p>	<p>To ensure all members receive information on ethical governance, ethical standards to minimise risk of unwitting breaches of the Code of Conduct.</p>	<p>By January 2019</p>	
<p>To seek the further promotion with all Members of the Authority's e-learning training on the use social media.</p>	<p>To assist all Member in the use of social media.</p>	<p>By September 2018</p>	<p>Being undertaken as a part of the Authority's Member Development Programme</p>
<p>Continue production of Annual Standards Committee Report</p>	<p>Presentation of Annual Report of the work of the Committee during the previous 12 months.</p>	<p>By end of each municipal year.</p>	
<p>To provide training to the Independent Persons on their role, this to include invitations to relevant training for Members.</p>	<p>To ensure that the Authority's Independent Persons understand their role in relation to ethical governance and the Code of Conduct for Members as well as the disciplinary procedures for Statutory Officers.</p>	<p>October 2018.</p>	<p>To be arranged as soon as possible.</p>

To update where necessary and recirculate the pocket guide to the Code of Conduct and the requirements in relation to interests to all Members.	To assist Members in how the Code of Conduct applies to them.	September 2018	Completed.
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1.4 Appendices:

None.

1.5 Contact officers:

Stephen Ballantyne, Legal Manager: Governance
and Employment

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1.6 Background information:

Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members
The Localism Act 2011