

North Tyneside Council Report to Standards Committee Date: 14 November 2019

ITEM

Title: Action Plan/Work
Programme 2019 - 20

Report from Service

Area: Law and Governance

Report Author: Bryn Roberts – Head of Law and Governance (Tel: 643 5339)

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 2020.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

The Committee is requested to consider and note this report.

1.3 Information

1.3.1 The Standards Committee's Action Plan up to 31 March 2020

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.

Action	Why	By When	Progress/Action
Monitor the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct and undertake a review of the Committee for Standards in Public Life's report on Local Government Ethical Standards to identify where the Authority is already meeting best practice and where there are areas where the Authority's	To ensure that it is operating effectively	March 2020	The review of the Members' Code of Conduct is being undertaken as a part of the larger review of the Authority's Constitution

arrangements could be improved.			
To review the Authority's Local Arrangements for dealing with Complaints under the Code of Conduct.	To ensure that the Authority's Local Arrangements meet the requirements and expectations of the Members and the relevant legislation.	March 2020	As above.
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.	To develop a dialogue between the Committee, and members and appropriate Officers relating to ethical governance and ethical standards.	Ongoing	To be arranged
Regional meeting of the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of Standards Committees and Independent Persons be arranged in consultation with other regional authorities	To provide an opportunity to share knowledge and best practice.	To be arranged in the course of the year.	To be arranged in consultation with Monitoring Officers in neighbouring authorities.
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.	To ensure all members receive information on ethical governance, ethical standards to minimise risk of unwitting breaches of the Code of Conduct.	By March 2020	Ongoing
To seek the further promotion with all Members of the Authority's e-learning	To assist all Member in the use of social media.	By March 2020	Ongoing

training on the use of social media.			
Continue production of Annual Standards Committee Report	Presentation of Annual Report of the work of the Committee during the previous 12 months.	By end of each municipal year.	Ongoing
To provide training to the Independent Persons on their role, this to include invitations to relevant training for Members.	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.	October 2019.	This will be arranged as soon as possible.
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.	December 2019	Ongoing

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