

North Tyneside Council Report to Standards Committee Date: 8 March 2018

ITEM 7

Title: Standards
Committee Draft Annual
Report 2017-18

Report from Service Area: Law and Governance

Report Authors: Vivienne Geary, Head of Law and Governance & Monitoring Officer (Tel: 643 5339)

Stephen Ballantyne, Lawyer Specialist – Governance and Employment (Tel: 643 5329)

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose

To introduce the Standards Committee Draft Annual Report for 2017-18 for consideration by the Committee prior to its finalisation and submission to the Annual Council meeting on 17 May 2018.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is requested to:

- (1) consider and suggest any additions and amendments to the Draft Annual Report 2017-18 attached at Appendix 1 as appropriate; and
- (2) authorise the Head of Law and Governance in consultation with the Chair of the Standards Committee to finalise the report, taking into account any comments received pursuant to recommendation (1) above, prior to its submission to the Annual Council meeting to be held on 17 May 2018.

3. Background

At the end of the municipal year the Standards Committee is required to approve the contents of a draft annual report summarising the work of the Committee over the previous year for submission to the Annual Council meeting.

The Committee is responsible for the promotion of ethical standards within the Authority, helping to secure adherence to the Members' Code of Conduct, monitoring the operation of the Code within North Tyneside, promoting and reviewing the Whistleblowing Policy for Members and conducting hearings following investigation and determining complaints made against Councillors in respect of alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct (including following requests for review).

The Standards Committee Draft Annual Report 2017-18 is attached at Appendix 1. The report sets out the work undertaken by the Standards Committee and its Sub-Committees over the municipal year. The report highlights the ways in which the

Standards Committee has influenced and shaped policy and the promotion and maintenance of ethical standards of conduct by the Elected Mayor, Councillors, Co-opted Members and church and parent governor representatives.

The Committee will consider its work programme for the new municipal year 2018-19 at its first meeting of the new year on 21 June 2018.

4. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Standards Committee Draft Annual Report 2017-18.

5. Contact officers:

Vivienne Geary, Head of Law and Governance (0191) 643 5339

Stephen Ballantyne, Lawyer Specialist: Governance and Employment (0191) 643 5359

Yvonne Harrison, Democratic Services Officer (0191) 643 5320

6. Background information:

None.