

# North Tyneside Council Report to Standards Committee Date: 20 March 2019

## ITEM

Title: Action Plan/Work  
Programme 2018 - 19

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 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 Action Plan up to 31 March 2019

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 new Members' Code of Conduct.	To ensure that it is operating effectively	Ongoing	Following the receipt of the Committee on Standards in Public Life's report a review will be undertaken. See report on main agenda.
To review the Authority's Local Arrangements for dealing with	To ensure that the Authority's Local Arrangements meet the requirements and	Ongoing	Following the receipt of the Committee on Standards in

Complaints under the Code of Conduct.	expectations of the Members and the relevant legislation.		Public Life's report a review will be undertaken. See report on main agenda.
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	The Chair of Council has been invited to attend the Committee's meeting in March 2019.  The Authority's new Monitoring Officer will also be in attendance.
To invite Chairs of Standards Committees from other Authorities in the region to attend Committee meetings.	To provide an opportunity to understand ethical governance and standards issues in other Authorities.	Ongoing	To be arranged in consultation with Monitoring Officers in neighbouring authorities.
6 monthly 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.	First meeting by October 2018 and second meeting by 31 March 2019	To be arranged in consultation with Monitoring Officers in neighbouring authorities.  This action will be brought forward in the Action Plan for 2019/20.
To promote the development of all Members by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>seeking the attendance of Regulatory Committee Members (including the Standards</li> </ul>	To assist the Authority to fulfil its statutory duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct.	By March 2019	This action will be brought forward in the Action Plan for 2019/20.

<p>Committee) at relevant Committees at neighbouring authorities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• encouraging the extension of filming of meetings to include the Planning Committee; and</li> <li>• the provision of training on relevant ethical standards issues.</li> </ul>			
<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>This action will be brought forward in the Action Plan for 2019/20.</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>Please see report on main agenda.</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>This action will be brought forward in the Action Plan for 2019/20.</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