



**Report of City Solicitor**

**Report to Standards and Conduct Committee**

**Date: 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**Subject: Annual Report of the Committee to Full Council**

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**1. Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 The Purpose of this report is seek the approval of Members to the Committee's Annual Report to Full Council.

**2. Background information**

- 2.1 Council Procedure Rule 2.2 (f) stipulates that an Annual Report of the Committee must be referred to Full Council for consideration - this being to support the duty of the Authority to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members and co-opted Members of the Council.

**3. Main issues**

- 3.1 Members are requested to consider the draft Annual Report reflecting the work of the Committee in the 2019/20 Municipal year, attached at Appendix 1 and determine whether any additional commentary is required.
- 3.2 Members are also asked to note that given Committee and Ordinary Full Council meeting cycles, the Annual Report will be received in March 2020.

## **4. Corporate considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and engagement**

4.1.1 This report consults Members views on the content of the Annual Report of the Committee.

### **4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration**

4.2.1 There are no equality and diversity or cohesion and integration issues arising from this report.

### **4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan**

4.3.1 Principle 3 of the Code of Corporate Governance states that the Council will put in place a Code of Conduct and keep it under review.

4.3.2 According to the Localism Act 2011, the Council has a duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct amongst Members and co-opted Members of the Authority. This report outlines how the Standards and Conduct Committee has carried out this duty on behalf of the Council.

#### Climate Emergency

4.3.3 There are no issues arising from this report relating to the Climate Emergency resolution of Full Council.

### **4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money**

4.4.1 There are no resource implications arising from this report and the Monitoring Officer confirms, by way of this report, that she has adequate resources to fulfil her statutory duties.

### **4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in**

4.5.1 The Standards and Conduct Committee's terms of reference are taken from the Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.

4.5.2 There are no implications for access to information or call in arising from this report.

### **4.6 Risk management**

4.6.1 The arrangements described within this report provide assurance that the Authority, parish and town councils, individual councillors and the Monitoring Officer are complying with the requirements set out in the Localism Act 2011. The work undertaken by the Monitoring Officer and her staff, and by this Committee, ensures that these arrangements remain up to date and fit for purpose and that the risk of breaching the statutory requirements is minimised.

4.6.2 In relation to complaints against Councillors the Monitoring Officer has considered the information above and does not consider that there are any adverse trends in the types of complaints received, and as no potential breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct have been revealed, there are no issues to address through training.

**5. Recommendations**

5.1 Members are requested to consider and approve the draft Annual Report at Appendix 1 and refer the report for Full Council for consideration report

**6. Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

6.1 None.

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.