

Part A

Report to: Council

Date of meeting: Tuesday, 19 May 2020

Report author: Group Head of Democracy and Governance

Title: Recommendations from Standards Committee 25 February 2020

1.0 Summary

1.1 On 25 February Standards Committee met to consider a report and recommendations made by the Committee for Standards in Public Life which included some recommended best practice for councils with regard to the operation of their Codes of Conduct for Councillors.

1.2 The report to the Standards Committee and the minutes are attached as appendix 1 and 2.

1.3 The Standards Committee made a number of recommendations for Council to consider.

2.0 Risks

2.1

Nature of risk	Consequence	Suggested Control Measures	Response (treat, tolerate, terminate or transfer)	Risk Rating (combination of severity and likelihood)
Council does not agree the recommendations	When the Committee for Standards in Public Life undertake their review the Council will not be compliant	The recommendations are agreed	treat	1

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 That the Code of Conduct for Councillors be reviewed annually by the Group Head of Democracy and Governance and the Standards Committee.

3.2 That the complaints procedure relating to complaints against members be updated to include the test for determining whether to investigate a complaint as set out in appendix 3.

3.3 That Council advertise for a second Independent Person.

Further information:

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Report approved by: Donna Nolan, Managing Director

4.0 Detailed proposal

4.1 Attached as appendix 1 is the report and minutes of the Standards Committee held on 25 February 2020. This report included a number of recommendations for Council.

4.2 One of the recommendations was to publish a clear and straightforward public interest test against which complaints could be filtered. Attached at appendix 2 is a proposed test. Council is asked to adopt it.

5.0 Implications

5.1 Financial

5.1.1 The Shared Director of Finance comments that there are no financial implications.

5.2 Legal Issues (Monitoring Officer)

5.2.1 The Group Head of Democracy and Governance comments that the legal implications are covered in the appended Standards Committee report.

5.3 Equalities, Human Rights and Data Protection

5.3.1 No equalities impact analysis or Data Protection impact assessment are required to adopt the proposed recommendations.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 Report to Standards Committee 25 February 2020
- Appendix 2 minutes of Standards Committee 25 February 2020
- Appendix 3 Public Interest Test for determining how complaints will be filtered

Background papers

No papers were used in the preparation of this report.