

STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE:

22 JUNE 2022

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE & LEGAL SERVICES
AND MONITORING OFFICER**

WORK PROGRAMME 2022 - 23

Reason for this Report

1. To consider the Committee's Work Programme and agree the items for consideration by the Standards and Ethics Committee in 2022/23

Background

2. The Standards and Ethics Committee's Terms of Reference set out the remit of the Committee to monitor, review and advise on matters relating to the Ethical code; Members Code of Conduct; matters of governance and probity; and compliance of Members in completing the essential Code of Conduct session.
3. To enable the Committee to fulfil its role an annual work plan is developed to reflect the Council's Annual Governance Statement; give consideration to standard monitoring reports; and any issues arising from the Committee's work in promoting high standards of conduct and managing complaints. The views of this Committee assist in the development of an ongoing work programme.

Issues

4. Attached **as Appendix A** is the draft Work Programme for 2022/23 which reflects ongoing priorities and standard reports and the frequency of reporting. The Committee is invited to review the plan taking into account available resources, and add or remove items and agree the frequency of reporting.

Legal Implications

5. There are no direct legal implications arising from the content of this report. However, the Committee is reminded of its statutory role contained in the extract from the Local Government Act 2000 set out below which should be considered alongside its terms of reference when setting the Work Programme:

54 Functions of standards committees

(1) *The general functions of a standards committee of a relevant authority are--*
(a) promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by the members and co-opted members of the authority, and
(b) assisting members and co-opted members of the authority to observe the authority's code of conduct.

(2) *Without prejudice to its general functions, a standards committee of a relevant authority has the following specific functions—*
(a) advising the authority on the adoption or revision of a code of conduct,
(b) monitoring the operation of the authority's code of conduct, and
(c) advising, training or arranging to train members and co-opted members of the authority on matters relating to the authority's code of conduct.

6. The Committee has the same statutory functions in relation to Community Councils and Community Councillors as it has in relation to the County Council and County Councillors (pursuant to section 56(1) of the Local Government Act 2000).
7. The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 places additional statutory responsibilities on Standards Committees in relation to new duties imposed on group leaders in respect of standards of conduct, which are reflected in the Committee's revised terms of reference (new paragraph (k)) and the draft Work Plan.

Financial Implications

8. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is recommended to consider the Work Programme as set out in **Appendix A**, and, taking into account its terms of reference and available resources, to agree with the Director of Governance and Legal Services and Monitoring Officer any amendments and how it wishes to progress the various items or topics contained therein.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance and Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

16th June 2022

Appendix

Appendix A

Work Programme 2022 - 23

Background Papers

Standards & Ethics Committee report, Work Programme 2021/22 – February 2022