

STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE:

7 November 2023

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

WORK PROGRAMME 2023 - 24

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 2023/24

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 2023/24 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 under the Local Government Act 2000 (section 54) 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.*

(2A) A standards committee of a county council or county borough council in Wales also has the specific functions of—

*(a) monitoring compliance by leaders of political groups on the council with their duties under section 52A(1), and
(b) advising, training or arranging to train leaders of political groups on the council about matters relating to those duties.*

6. The Committee has the same general and specific statutory functions (set out under section 54(1) and (2) above) 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).

Financial Implications

7. There are no direct financial implications arising from the report. The work programme would need to be delivered with the resources available within the allocated budget.

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

26 October 2023

Appendix

Appendix A

Work Programme 2023 – 24

Background Papers

[Standards & Ethic Committee Work Programme 2023 – 2024 July 2023](#)