

AGENDA ITEM:**SUMMARY****WYCOMBE**
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report For:	Standards Committee
Meeting Date:	29th January 2020
Part:	Part 1 - Open
If Part 2, reason:	N/A

Title of Report:	ANNUAL REPORT OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Officer Contact: Direct Dial: Email:	Kiran Khanna – Principal Solicitor & Monitoring Officer 01494 421264 kirankhanna@wycombe.gov.uk
Ward(s) affected:	All
Reason for the Decision:	<p>This is final Annual Report of the current Standards Committee since its inception in 2012, which outlines the Committee's work over the past year. This would have been the second annual report but due to the meetings having been postponed on two occasions and the timing of the new unitary, this is now the final annual report of the Standards Committee for Wycombe District. The first Annual was noted by full Council on 11 December 2017.</p>

<p>Proposed Decision/Recommendation:</p>	<p>That Standards Committee approves the attached Final Annual report, noting the actions taken and refers to Full Council for noting.</p>
<p>Sustainable Community Strategy/Council Priorities - Implications</p>	<p>The proposed decision supports the Council's overall governance arrangements, including the Local Code of Governance and its Progress objective in the Corporate Plan by supporting good governance practices.</p> <p>Risk: No specific issues</p> <p>Equalities: No specific issues</p> <p>Health & Safety: No specific issues</p>
<p>Monitoring Officer/ S.151 Officer Comments</p>	<p>Monitoring Officer:</p> <p>(i)The Localism Act 2011 sets out the current provisions in relation to member standards and ethics, and the Standards Committee and associated processes fulfils this requirement.</p> <p>(ii)The publishing of the Annual Governance Statement (AGS), in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, is the formal reporting of the Council's governance arrangements and approval is undertaken by Audit Committee; this is an opportunity to report on the quality of those arrangements and identify any actions to improve upon them. Regulation 6 imposes a requirement, each financial year, to prepare an Annual Governance Statement and to conduct a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control required by Regulation 3.</p> <p>CIPFA/SOLACE issued guidance for, "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016".</p> <p>The Audit meeting has historically reviewed this and</p>

	<p>recommended some areas for improvement. The recommendation which was specific to Standards Committee was that there should be an annual report from Standards Committee to Full Council setting out the work carried out by Standards Committee in the preceding year, outlining the work programme of the Standards Committee over the past year, including training provided, the number of member conduct complaint referrals and outcomes, and any outside assurance in relation to operational processes. The principle of an annual report has already been endorsed.</p> <p>S.151 Officer:</p>
Consultees:	None required
Options:	There are no options other than to amend the content of the Annual Report and note that is the final report to the Standards Committee before the unitary takes effect in April 2020. The principle of an Annual Report has already been established
Next Steps:	Full Council will note the Annual Report when presented with Standards Committee's minutes on 23 March 2020.
Background Papers:	None.
Abbreviations:	

Appendices to this report are as follows: Appendix 1: The Annual Report of the Standards Committee.