



Report to Standards and General Purposes Committee

Date: 2 July 2020

Title: Work Programme for 2020-21

Author and/or contact officer: Joanna Swift Deputy Monitoring Officer (CSB Team)

Ward(s) affected: None specific

Recommendation:

The Committee is asked to consider and agree the draft work programme appended to this report subject to any amendments or additions proposed by members

Reason for decision: To guide the work of the Committee over the forthcoming year

Content of report

- 1.1 The Committee has responsibility for overseeing and developing the Council's code of conduct for members which was adopted by the Shadow Authority on 27 February 2020 in Part H of the Constitution. The Council's duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by its members under section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 is also delegated to the Committee. This includes monitoring the operation of the code and complaints procedure, overseeing the appointment of Independent Persons, providing general guidance and arranging training for members on the code and standards matters and supporting the role of the Monitoring Officer in respect of standards of conduct.
- 1.2 The Committee has oversight of other council protocols such as the Planning Protocol, the Protocol on Member/Officer Relations and the arrangements for recording the receipt of gifts and hospitality. Again these were included in the Constitution adopted by the Shadow Authority on 27 February. The Committee also has a role in considering reports issued by the Local Government Ombudsman into complaints of maladministration.

- 1.3 The exercise of statutory functions in relation to electoral arrangements falls to the Committee, as well as undertaking community governance reviews for parish/town councils and making recommendations to Full Council on byelaws.
- 1.4 A draft work programme for the Committee is appended to the report. Members will note this provides for an annual review of the code and complaints procedures, together with monitoring of complaints received. A review of training on the code of conduct is proposed at the December Committee so that recommendations can be feed into the 2021-member induction programme. Guidance on matters such as dispensations, use of social media and the role of the Monitoring Officer are also proposed and reports from the LGO included. The Committee is invited to consider the items proposed and agree any additional /alternative areas of work.

Other options considered

- 1.5 The adoption of a work programme is considered to be best practice but the items to be included are matter for agreement by the Committee.

Legal and financial implications

- 1.6 There are no legal or financial implications arising directly from the adoption of a work programme. But when individual reports listed in the programme come forward to the Committee they will address these considerations.

Corporate implications

- 1.7 There are no specific corporate implications arising out of this report but adopting a work programme supports arrangements to demonstrate and ensure good governance of the Council

Next steps and review

The work programme will be updated as necessary during the year to reflect any new items arising or agreed by the Committee

Background papers

None

