

Non-Executive Report of the: Standards Advisory Committee 22 April 2021	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Janet Fasan, Director of Legal and Interim Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Draft Standards Advisory Committee Annual Report to Council	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion – Head of Democratic Services
Wards affected	All Wards

Summary

This report sets out a first draft of the Committee’s annual report to Council. The report covers the activities of the Committee over the last year as well as being an opportunity to highlight any relevant issues to Council.

The Committee are asked to consider the draft Annual Report and feedback on any updates or changes they would like to see.

An updated report will then be presented to the meeting on 1 July 2021 before being submitted to Council on 21 July 2021.

Recommendation:

The Standards Advisory Committee is recommended:

1. To consider and comment on the suggested draft Annual Report attached as Appendix 1.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 It is considered best practice in many authorities for the full Council to receive an annual report in relation to the work of the Standards Advisory Committee and on issues around standards generally. The provision of an annual report of the Committee’s business ensures the profile of ethical standards across the organisation and affords the opportunity to highlight areas of good practice and identify any requirements for improvement.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The Advisory Committee could decide not to submit an annual report but this course of action is not recommended.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 3.1 The Advisory Committee is asked to consider and comment on the proposed draft Annual Report attached as Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The draft report contains an outline of the work and activities of the Standards Advisory Committee over the past year as well as highlighting any particular issues that Council should consider.
- 3.3 The report would usually consider activity across a single municipal year from May in one calendar year to May in the next. However, the Covid-19 pandemic caused the Council's 2020 annual meeting to be delayed until September 2020.
- 3.4 To maintain a good consistency and comparator through the Committee's annual reports it was agreed that they would continue to monitor a year's worth of activity. Therefore, this report considers the period from May 2020 to May 2021.
- 3.5 The Committee are asked to consider the content of the draft Annual Report and propose changes where useful. An updated report will be presented to the Committee's meeting on 1 July with the final version submitted by the Chair to Council on 21 July 2021.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no immediate equalities implications arising out of this report.

5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:
- Best Value Implications,
 - Consultations,
 - Environmental (including air quality),
 - Risk Management,
 - Crime Reduction,
 - Safeguarding.
- 5.2 Robust ethical governance arrangements help to ensure the proper, efficient and effective discharge of the Council's functions and contribute to compliance with the requirement to achieve best value.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 There are no immediate financial implications resulting from this report.

7. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 7.1 The principal statutory provisions relating to standards of conduct for Members are contained in the Localism Act 2011. Section 27(1) of the 2011 Act provides that the Council must promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members and Co-opted Members of the authority.
- 7.2 Sections 27 and 28 of the Localism Act require the Council to adopt a Code of Conduct consistent with the Nolan principles of good governance and to appoint at least one Independent Person whose views must be sought and taken into account before the Council makes any decision about an alleged breach of the Code that has been investigated.
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Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – draft Annual Report to Council

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

- NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

- N/A