

Non-Executive Report of the: Standards Advisory Committee Thursday, 25 November 2021	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Open (Unrestricted)
Review of the Effectiveness of the Standards Advisory Committee	

Originating Officer(s)	Jill Bayley, Legal Services
Wards affected	(All Wards);

Special Circumstances Justifying Urgent Consideration

This report was not ready for publication with the agenda due to ongoing discussions about the number of responses received. However, it is a noting report being presented at the request of the Committee.

Executive Summary

As part of the ongoing commitment to ensuring the effectiveness of the Standards Advisory Committee, a questionnaire was circulated to Members on 5 and 12 November 2021.

Recommendations:

The Standards Advisory Committee is recommended to:

1. Review and note the outcome of the survey and make any comments on increasing the effectiveness of the Committee.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 Ensuring the Committee is effective supports the work of the Committee. This in turn helps ensure high standards are maintained by the Council's Members.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The Committee could decide not to make any changes to the Standards Advisory Committee.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 A survey to establish Members' perception of the effectiveness of the Standards Advisory Committee was circulated to Members on 5 and 12 November 2021.
- 3.2 An initial five responses have been received which are presented in Appendix 1 – any further responses will be provided in time for the meeting (not being ready in time for circulation of the report).
- 3.3 All initial respondents indicated that they felt they understood the role of the Standards Advisory Committee, and all respondents felt the current balance between elected and co-opted members of the Committee was about right. In answer to the question about how awareness of the Committee's role could be raised, one response was received. This response suggested that more reference to the committee's work could be made in the Members' Bulletin. In answer to the question asking for any comments, one response was received. This response said that it was a useful committee and the time of the co-opted members was particularly appreciated.
- 3.4 In general, the responses to the survey indicated that Members were generally happy with the effectiveness of the committee and did not feel the need for change.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None specific to 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.
 - Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.
- 5.2 None specific to this report but an effective Standards Advisory Committee supports the Council's desire to ensure high standards are maintained by Members.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 A local authority is required by Section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members of that authority. An effective committee considering standards is a method of meeting this requirement.
-

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- None

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Initial responses to the survey.

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

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

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- None

Officer contact details for documents:

N/A