

Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>Standards Advisory Committee</b>  Wednesday, 15 February 2023	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	<b>Classification:</b> Open (Unrestricted)
<b>Update - Implementation of best practice recommendations by CSPL</b>	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Jill Bayley, Head of Safeguarding
<b>Wards affected</b>	(All Wards);

### Executive Summary

The Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) advises the Prime Minister on ethical standards across the whole of public life in England. It monitors and reports on issues relating to the standards of conduct of all public office holders. The CSPL is an advisory non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Cabinet Office. This report informs members of the Government's response to the Committee on Standards in Public Life's review of Local Government Ethical Standards published in January 2019, and updates Members on the progress of LBTH in implementing these.

### Recommendations:

1. The Standards Advisory Committee is recommended to consider and note the content of the report.

#### 1. **REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

- 1.1 This report does not require a decision.

#### 2. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 This report does not require a decision.

#### 3. **DETAILS OF THE REPORT**

- 3.1 The CSPL review of local government ethical standards, published in January 2019, considered all levels of local government in England and its terms of reference were to:

- Examine the structures, processes and practices in local government in England for:
  - Maintaining codes of conduct for local councillors;
  - Investigating alleged breaches fairly and with due process;
  - Enforcing codes and imposing sanctions for misconduct;
  - Declaring interests and managing conflicts of interest;
  - Whistleblowing
- Assess whether the existing structures, processes and practices are conducive to high standards of conduct in local government;
- Make any recommendations for how they can be improved;
- Note any evidence of intimidation of councillors and make recommendations for any measures that could be put in place to prevent and address such intimidation.

3.2 LBTH noted progress on the best practice recommendations (aimed at local government) in a report submitted to the Standards Advisory Committee in October 2020.

3.3 The Government has now responded to the Recommendations in the review (which were aimed at central government). Appendix A sets out the Government's responses to the recommendations, with comments, where appropriate, on the LBTH position.

3.4 Appendix B is the Government responses to the recommendations.

3.5 In January 2023 the Committee on Standards in Public Life published a review, Leading in Practice, which looks at potential actions for leadership. Appendix C is the twenty actions set out in the report for leaders to consider.

#### **4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Ethical governance arrangements ensure proper decision making and contribute to the Council's compliance with equalities legislation.

#### **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 Robust ethical governance arrangements 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 direct financial implications.

## 7. **COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

7.1 The principal statutory provisions relating to standards of conduct are contained in the *Localism Act 2011*. S.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 S.27 and s.28 of the 2011 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 the alleged breach of the Code that has been investigated.

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## **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

### **Linked Report**

- None

### **Appendices**

- Appendix A – CSPL recommendations
- Appendix B Government responses to the recommendations.
- Appendix C twenty actions for leaders to consider.

### **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