

Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>Standards Advisory Committee</b>  Thursday, 4 February 2021	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Janet Fasan, Divisional Director Legal Services and Interim Monitoring Officer	<b>Classification:</b> Open (Unrestricted)
<b>Standards Advisory Committee - Terms of Reference Review</b>	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services Patricia Attawia, Democratic Services Team Leader (Civic and Members)
<b>Wards affected</b>	(All Wards);

### Executive Summary

At its meeting on 15 October 2020, the Committee agreed to undertake a review of the effectiveness of its terms of reference. This report provides a first update on that work.

Committee members have been sent a survey to gather their views on the clarity and effectiveness of the current terms of reference. It is proposed use this feedback as the basis of the next stage of the review.

### Recommendations:

The Standards Advisory Committee is recommended to:

1. Review and note the report and make comments as necessary on the proposed course of the Terms of Reference review.

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

- 1.1 Ensuring the Committee's Terms of Reference are accurate and 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 choose not to undertake a review.

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

- 3.1 At its meeting on 15 October 2020, the Committee agreed to undertake a review of the effectiveness of its Terms of Reference. It was agreed that the first stage of the review would be to send out a survey to all Members of the Committee asking their views on each section of the Terms of Reference. This research would help steer the next steps to look at those parts of the Terms of Reference which were thought to be the most lacking.
- 3.2 The survey was sent out to Members in January 2021 and the results will be reported to the meeting for discussion.
- 3.3 The existing Terms of reference are attached to this report at Appendix 1. The results of the survey will be attached as Appendix 2.
- 3.4 In addition to the survey results, a selection of Terms of Reference from Standards Committees at other London Boroughs are attached at Appendix 3 to see if Members wish to consider any alternative terms or wording from those documents.

### **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 good quality terms of reference for the Committee support 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 Any proposed changes agreed by the Committee to the terms of reference should be referred to the General Purposes Committee for initial consideration and that Committee will decide whether to approve the changes or refer the matter on to full Council for further consideration.
- 7.2 In addition, parts A, B, C and D of the Council's constitution will need to be updated as appropriate to reflect any changes that are approved.
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## **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

### **Linked Report**

- None

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Existing Terms of Reference of the Standards Advisory Committee
- Appendix 2 –Results from the survey of Committee Members (to follow)
- Appendix 3 – A selection of Terms from Standards Committees at other London Boroughs

### **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