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**Meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee – 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2023**

**Report of the Monitoring Officer**

**Annual Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life**

**Purpose of report**

1. To receive the annual report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life.

**Recommendation**

2. That the Committee note and comment on the annual report.

**Background**

3. The annual report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life for 2021/22 is attached. The remit of the Committee is wide-ranging but broadly it covers standards of conduct of all holders of public office whether elected or appointed.
4. The report refers to the seven principles of public life. The principles include selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. These principles are fully reflected in the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in the Constitution.
5. The report includes an overview of the work undertaken in 2021/22 and ongoing activity. The issues identified in the report are of general interest to the public sector and Members are invited to note the contents of the document.
6. On 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2022, the Council approved a report on the Annual Review of the Constitution. This included confirmation of the recommendations of the Audit and Standards Committee concerning the adoption of the revised Members' Code of Conduct and Standards Arrangements effective from 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2022. Mandatory training on the

Members' Code of Conduct and Standards Arrangements was provided for new and existing Members of the Council on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2022. At the time of writing this report, there have been no further changes in primary or secondary legislation.

## **Finance**

7. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## **Law**

8. The legislative framework relating to local government standards, including the duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct, is set out in the Localism Act 2011.

## **Risk Management**

9. The requirements of the Council's Constitution and governance arrangements ensure that the Council considers any ongoing material risks as part of the Council's Risk Management Framework.

## **Equality Impact**

10. The Council is committed to equality and diversity and this is reflected in the Constitution, including the Member and Employee Codes of Conduct.

## **Human Resources/Organisational Development**

11. The Council's standards arrangements are administered by the Monitoring Officer within the resources available to him.

## **Commercial/Procurement**

12. The Constitution includes governance documents that set a framework in which the Council's commercial/procurement activity is properly undertaken. This includes the Council's Standing Orders relating to Contracts.

## **Environment/Climate Change**

13. There are no direct environmental implications impacting on the Council's work to address Climate Change and achieve our Net Zero target by 2041.

## **Council Priorities and Projects**

14. The Council's Constitution, including the Member and Employee Codes of Conduct, are key governance documents which underpin the delivery of key Council priorities including the Borough Vision, Council Plan and Future Council Programme.



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## **List of Background Documents**

Appendix – Annual Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life  
2021/22

[Report and Minutes of the Council dated 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2022](#)