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**Meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee – 6<sup>th</sup> December, 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 the period July 2022 to June 2023 is attached as an Appendix. The remit of the Committee is wide-ranging but it broadly covers the standards of conduct of all holders of public office whether elected or appointed.
4. The annual report refers to the seven principles of public life. The principles are selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.
5. The annual report includes an overview of the work undertaken in 2022/23 and ongoing activity. The issues identified in the report are of general interest to the public sector and the Committee is invited to note the contents of the document.
6. Dudley Council adopted the current Members' Code of Conduct and Standards Arrangements with effect from 6th May, 2022. These documents fully reflect the seven principles of public life and are incorporated in the [Council's Constitution](#).

7. At the time of writing this report, there have been no changes in primary or secondary legislation that necessitate changes to the Members' Code of Conduct or Standards Arrangements.
8. Mandatory training on the Members' Code of Conduct and Standards Arrangements is provided for all Members of the Council. Further mandatory training will be provided for all Members following the municipal elections in May, 2024.

### **Finance**

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

### **Law**

10. 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**

11. 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**

12. 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**

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

### **Commercial/Procurement**

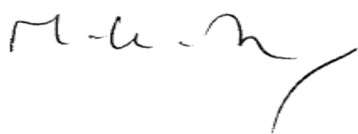
14. The Constitution includes governance documents that set a framework in which the Council's commercial/procurement activity is properly undertaken. This includes the Council's Standing Orders relating to Contracts.

## **Environment/Climate Change**

15. There are no direct environmental implications impacting on the Council's work to address Climate Change and achieve our Net Zero target by 2030.

## **Council Priorities and Projects**

16. 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 2022/23](#)

[Dudley Council's Constitution](#)