

**Audit and Standards Committee - 14th February, 2013**

**Report of the Monitoring Officer**

**Annual Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life 2011/2012**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To consider the annual report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life 2011/2012.

**Background**

2. A copy of the Annual Report is attached at Appendix 1. The Committee on Standards in Public Life is chaired by Sir Christopher Kelly.
3. 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 work of the Committee over the past year has primarily been focussed on the inquiry into funding of Political parties and consideration of ethics and best practice.
5. Paragraphs 8 – 13 of the report deal with a Standards check in respect of the areas indicated.
6. The Committee on Standards in Public Life has published a report entitled “Standards Matter – A review of best practice in promoting good behaviour in Public Life” (January 2013). The full report is available on the internet at the following link:- [http://www.public-standards.org.uk/Library/Standards\\_Matter.pdf](http://www.public-standards.org.uk/Library/Standards_Matter.pdf)  
The report recommends changes to the descriptions of the Seven Principles in Public Life. The amended descriptions are set out in Appendix 2. The Committee on Standards in Public Life has indicated that these descriptions will be used in all their future publications. Advice received from national professional bodies is that it would be appropriate to update the Council’s local Codes of Conduct to reflect the new terminology.
7. The revised descriptions refer to ‘holders of public office’. It is proposed that the Members’ Code of Conduct be updated with the revised descriptions and that the Employees Code should also reflect the same principles when it is next reviewed in September 2013.

## **Finance**

8. There are no particular financial implications arising from this report.

## **Law**

9. Section III of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of its statutory functions.

## **Equality Impact**

10. There are no equality impact implications arising from this report.

## **Recommendation**

11. It is recommended that the Committee discuss and note the Annual Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life as set out in Appendix 2.
12. That the Council be recommended to authorise the Director of Corporate Resources to update the Members' Code of Conduct and any other references in the Constitution or associated documentation to include the revised wording of the seven principles in public life.



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## **List of Background Papers**

None.