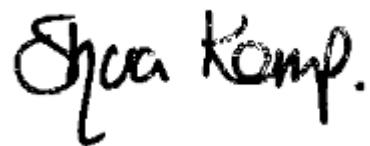


STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Venue: **Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham. S60 2TH** **Date:** **Thursday, 31 March 2016**
Time: **2.00 p.m.**

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. To consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any part of the agenda.
3. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.
4. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th December, 2015 and 14th January, 2016 (Pages 1 - 9)
5. Update Report and Transition to new Standards Arrangements (Pages 10 - 15)
6. Update on the Handling of Complaints of possible Breaches of the Code of Conduct for Members (Pages 16 - 20)
7. Date and Time of Next Meeting



S. KEMP,
Chief Executive

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
4th December, 2015

Present:- Councillor Beck (in the Chair); Councillors Fleming, Hughes and Taylor, Parish Councillor D. Bates and also Mr. P. Edler, Ms. J. Porter and Mrs. C. Saltis.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alam, Beaumont, Finnie and Pitchley, Parish Councillor D. Rowley, Parish Councillor R. Swann, Ms. A. Dowdall Mr. P. Beavers and Mr. D. Roper-Newman.

27. FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STANDARDS WORKING GROUP

Consideration was given to a report which outlined the work undertaken by the Standards Working Group between 16th July and 19th November, 2015, in which it made several recommendations to update and introduce new procedures as well as increasing the profile of the Standards Committee.

It was hoped that these innovations would contribute to the development of healthier ethical standards within the Council as well as contributing to the corporate governance and improvement plan of the Council.

The Committee considered in detail at each of the numbered areas of the report and the appendices as part of the report, which had been circulated, in turn.

1. Standards Committee – Terms of Reference which were agreed whilst noting revisions Nos. 2, 11 and 19 by the Working Group.
2. Appendix 2 related to the ongoing development of the Standards Committee Work Plan which would be subject to change or addition should the need arise.
3. The Model Code of Conduct (Appendix 3) was part of the improvement Plan and included the supplement from Commissioner Sir Derek Myers “A Healthy System of Democratic Leadership and Accountability”. The Committee were in agreement with the Model Code and the supplement going forward to Council for adoption.
4. The strapline statement of purpose rather than the adoption of a mission statement was fully supported, which would be included at the top of the Terms of Reference.
5. The name change to be “Standards and Ethics Committee” was fully supported and best met the work and role of the Standards Committee moving forward.

6. The suggested mock up pages for the new website were welcomed and supported and needed to be as informative as possible for members of the public with clear explanations and links to the relevant documents.

It was also suggested that similar literature be placed in public places for those members of the public who were not computer literate and clearly communicated to Town and Parish Councils.

7. The Committee was happy to endorse the membership remaining as it was currently, but wished to ensure the hearing panels were increased in number and were strengthened to include:-

One majority party elected member of the Borough Council
One minority party elected member of the Borough Council
One Parish Councillor
Two Independent Co-opted Members.

of which the Chair of the hearing panel should be an Independent Co-opted Member.

8. In terms of Appendix 4 the Committee welcomed the streamlined and much improved procedure for hearing complaints, which the Working Group considered in detail.

The Committee noted the need for all complaints to be received in writing and that the form, which would be included on the website for completion, requested information on which part of the Code of Conduct the complainant believed to have been breached.

9. The Committee welcomed the Whistleblowing and Serious Misconduct Policy 2015 which was more transparent and the introduction of a dedicated email address and pro forma for anyone wishing to report an actual or suspected wrongdoing.

10. The Committee welcomed the Annual Report as this would seek to promote and raise the profile of their work.

In conclusion Stuart Fletcher, Deputy Monitoring Officer, made reference to the Member/Officer Protocol that had been developed by the Lead Commissioner which would sit alongside the Member related procedures.

The Chairman wished to thank all involved with the comprehensive review which had been undertaken and this was endorsed by all the Standards Committee Members present.

(1) Resolved:- That the Standards Committee Working Group be thanked for their work and that their recommendations be considered for implementation.

(2) Recommended: That:-

- i. The Terms of Reference for the Standards Committee, attached at Appendix 1, be adopted.
- ii. A work plan be introduced by the Standards Committee.
- iii. The supplement to the Code of Conduct attached at Appendix 3 be adopted by the Council.
- iv. The following mission statement/strapline be adopted by the Standards Committee:

“Responsible for promoting ethical behaviour and building confidence in local democracy.”
- v. The Standards Committee be called the Standards and Ethics Committee.
- vi. The website be refreshed.
- vii. That the membership of the Committee remains as it was currently but that the Hearing Panels established to consider complaints be comprised of:-
 - (a) One Borough Council elected member from the majority party and one from an opposition party; one parish councillor and two independent members
- viii. The revised procedure, at Appendix 4, for dealing with code of conduct complaints be adopted.
- ix. That the revised procedure for the whistleblowing policy, at Appendix 5, be agreed in principle to allow for appropriate consultation to take place.
- x. That an annual report be produced.

28. CODE FOR ROTHERHAM MBC: SENIOR STAFF WORKING TO COUNCILLORS

Consideration was given to a report which set out the details of the Code for Rotherham MBC: Senior Staff Working to Councillors, which had been prepared by Commissioner Sir Derek Myers in liaison with other Commissioners, Leaders of Political Groups, Trade Unions and Senior Officers.

It was essential that the roles and expectations of both Members and Senior Officers working with them were fully understood by both parties. The appendix to the report set out the principles by which these

relationships would be managed, and provided guidance as to the way in which Members and officers should behave and conduct themselves, when working together.

Although there currently was a Member/Officer Protocol as part of the Constitution, the Code herewith provided more specificity as to the dynamics of the relationship expected between senior officers and Members and would, therefore, form part of the Code of Conduct for Officers.

The Committee sought clarification on a number of points including the holding of senior staff to account, the attendance of officers at scrutiny meetings, avoidance of duplication for challenging policy, the reinforcement of standards expected, good working practices and how this only related to the borough and not parish councils.

Resolved: That the Code for Rotherham MBC: Senior Staff working to Councillors be approved.

29. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Standards Committee be changed from the Thursday, 10th December, 2015 to now take place on Thursday, 14th January, 2016 at 2.00 p.m.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Thursday, 14th January, 2016

Present:- Councillor Beck (in the Chair); Councillors Alam, Hughes, Pitchley and Taylor, along with Parish Councillors Bates, Rowley and Swann and also Ms. A. Dowdall, Mr. P. Edler, Ms. J. Porter and Mrs. C. Saltis.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Beaumont, Finnie and Fleming.

(THE CHAIR AUTHORISED CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING URGENT ITEM IN ORDER TO PROGRESS THE MATTER FOR FULL COUNCIL)

30. REQUEST FOR A DISPENSATION FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Consideration was given to the report circulated which detailed a request for a dispensation in respect of all affected members in relation to an anticipated motion to be discussed at the Council meeting on the 27th January, 2016.

The motion was in relation to the Trade Union Bill which was being considered by Parliament. There was the potential that members who were Trade Union members or those that had received financial support from Trade Unions would be required to declare the interest and not participate in the debate.

The circumstances on which the Standards Committee may grant a dispensation were outlined which must specify the period for which the dispensation had effect and must not exceed four years.

Having regard to the circumstances the Standards Committee were in agreement in granting a dispensation under Section 33 of the Localism Act.

Resolved:- (1) That the request for dispensation be approved.

(2) That the grounds on which the dispensation was approved related to the fact that without the dispensation the number of persons prohibited from participating in the particular business would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business that it would impede the actual transaction of the business.

31. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 10TH SEPTEMBER, 2015

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 10th September, 2015.

With regards to Minute No. 22 (Outcome of the Standards Hearing Panel) it was noted the Parish Council in question had considered the recommendations of the Standards Hearing Panel and had agreed to formal censure the Parish Councillor concerned, but had not upheld the recommendations in respect of removal from outside bodies or sub-committees.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 10th September, 2015 be approved as a correct record.

32. MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE WORKING GROUPS HELD ON 1ST OCTOBER AND 19TH NOVEMBER, 2015

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Standards Committee Working Group on 1st October and 19th November, 2015.

The Chairman confirmed the final report was submitted to Council on the 9th December, 2015 and was approved. He wished to place on record his thanks and appreciation to all those involved in this good piece of work.

Resolved:- (1) That the contents of the minutes held on 1st October and 19th October, 2015 were noted.

(2) That all those involved with the work of the Standard Committee Working Group be thanked for their support and input.

33. UPDATE ON THE HANDLING OF COMPLAINTS OF POSSIBLE BREACHES OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS

Consideration was given to the a report presented by Stuart Fletcher, Service Manager, which provided an update on the handling of complaints relating to breaches to the Code of Conduct and the subsequent steps taken, which included:-

- A complaint was received that a Borough Councillor had not followed appropriate procedures in a Council meeting, by not passing a resolution excluding press and public from the meeting. The complainant alleged that the member had thereby breached the Code of Conduct by bringing the officer of Councillor or the Council into disrepute.

Representations were received by the member in question and relevant documentary evidence was examined.

The views of the Independent Person were taken. He felt that on the balance of probabilities the appropriate resolution was passed. The Monitoring Officer considered these views and concurred with this conclusion and taking all of the circumstances of the complaint into account, decided that the complaint should not be investigated further. The complainant and member have been informed of this

decision.

- A complaint was received that a Parish Councillor made a derogatory comment that Standards Committee proceedings which he had been subject to were "a shambles" and a "kangaroo court".

The matter was referred to the Independent Person for his views who felt that there was little doubt that the words had been said, but that the Parish Councillor was acting in his personal capacity at the time and therefore the Code of Conduct was not invoked.

The Monitoring Officer concurred with this view and, therefore, the Complainant and Parish Councillor were written to informing them of this decision.

- A complaint was received from a member of the public that a Parish Councillor was rude and threatening to him in a Parish Council meeting. The views of the Independent Person were requested and after reviewing the relevant evidence, which included listening to a recording of the relevant Parish Council meeting, he concluded that there had been provocation of the Parish Councillor by the Complainant and that the remarks were made under duress.

As such the Independent Person felt that due to the circumstances of the case there should be no further investigation.

The Monitoring Officer concurred with this view and complainant and the Parish Councillor were written to informing them of this decision. The complainant had subsequently submitted further information in relation to this matter and asked that the issue be reviewed. Further the complainant had submitted a further complaint in relation to the same Parish Councillor and the Monitoring Officer was liaising with the complainant to try to fully establish the relevant issues in that matter. A further update on these matters would be provided at the next meeting.

- A complaint had been received that a Parish Councillor called a member of the public corrupt in the presence of a number of other Parish Councillors and members of the public.

The views of the relevant Parish Councillor have been sought, but none have been provided as yet. The details of the complaints have been forwarded to the Independent Person for his views as to whether further investigation of this matter is appropriate. A further update would be provided to the Committee at the next meeting.

- A complaint had been received that a Councillor made inappropriate comments on a social network.

The views of the member were obtained and he stated that his comments were an error of judgement and that he was prepared to apologise to the complainant.

A letter of apology was sent by the member to the complainant. The issues concerning the complaint were discussed by the Monitoring Officer with the relevant member and the importance of the principles stated within the Code of Conduct reiterated.

As such the Monitoring Officer considers this matter to be concluded and the relevant Member and complainant have been informed of this decision.

Discussion ensued on the nature of some of the complaints and comments passed on the contempt and little regard to the Code of Conduct by some, the offensive nature of some of the remarks, when it was deemed someone was acting as an elected representative, expectation and reasonableness of behaviour and the credibility of the recommendations by Standards Hearing Panels.

The Committee noted the actions taken by a Parish Council following recommendations by a Standards Hearing Panel and expressed some concerns about precedents being set. However, it was noted that should further complaints be received, each would be considered on individual merits and Standards Hearing Panels convened when deemed necessary.

Resolved:- (1) That the steps taken to resolve the complaints be noted.

(2) That the resolution of the complaints which have now been concluded be noted.

(During the course of this item Councillor Beck vacated the meeting and Councillor Hughes assumed the chair)

34. PROPOSED STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2016

Consideration was given to report presented by Stuart Fletcher, Service Manager, which proposed the Work Plan for the Standards Committee for the year 2016.

In terms of the updates required it was suggested that the Training Plan be submitted for consideration at the September meeting rather than in March given the possibility of changes following the election in May, 2016.

It was also noted that general complaints were not included as part of the work plan as these were already considered elsewhere.

Resolved:- That the proposed Work Plan be approved, subject to any further amendments made by the Committee.

35. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING - THURSDAY, 10TH MARCH, 2016 AT 2.00 P.M.

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Standards Committee take place on Thursday, 10th March, 2016 at 2.00 p.m.



Public/Private Report
Council/or Other Formal Meeting

Summary Sheet**Standards Committee Report**

Standards Committee March 31st 2016

Title

Update Report and Transition to new Standards Arrangements

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

N/A

Report Author(s)

Stuart Fletcher, Legal Services, Riverside House, Main Street, Rotherham .S60 1AE
Tel : 01709 823523

Ward(s) Affected

All

Executive Summary

This report outlines the progress in implementing the Recommendations made to refresh the Standards Committee, items on the Standards Committee Work Plan and the transition to the new Standards and Ethics Committee.

Recommendations

That the Standards Committees notes implementation of the new arrangements

List of Appendices Included

None

Background Papers

Files held by Legal Services

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Title Update Report and Transition to new Standards Arrangements

1. Recommendations

That the Standards Committees notes the implementation of the new arrangements

2. Background

2.1 Members will recall the various matters which came to the Standards Committee on 4th December 2015 as a result of the work of the Standards Committee Working Group. This work followed on from the Corporate Governance Inspection and report, and Government intervention whereby it was felt that the Standards regime in the Council should be reviewed in order to contribute to the corporate improvement of the Council. It was felt that a refreshed, more prominent Standards Committee would contribute to the development of a healthier culture within the Council.

3. Key Issues

It is important that members are kept informed as to the progress of the issues Previously considered and approved. As such the current status of the various matters approved by the Standards Committee is as follows:

3.1 By the time of the next Committee meeting, the Committee will be called the Standards and Ethics Committee. The resolution of the Standards Committee to that effect was approved by the Full Council meeting in January 2016. As such the new arrangements will be operative from the time of the new municipal year, and there will be a formal change to the constitution to that effect, from May 2016.

3.2 Similarly, the new Terms of Reference for the Standards Committee which were adopted at the meeting in December 2015 will be operative from the start of the new municipal year, whereby the main responsibility of the Committee is stated to be "The promotion of ethical behaviour and building confidence in local democracy".

3.3 The new Rotherham specific Code of Conduct which was approved by the Standards Committee at its meeting in December 2015 has been approved by Council and is now operative.

3.4 Similarly the new supplement to the Member/Officer Protocol which was approved by the Standards Committee at its meeting in December 2015 has been approved by Council and is now operative.

3.5 The new procedure for investigating complaints which was approved by the Standards Committee in December 2015 is now operative and is being used in respect of complaints received since that time.

3.6 The new Whistleblowing Policy which was approved by the Standards Committee in December 2015 was consulted upon with the Trade Unions and this did not produce any changes to the document which had been before the Standards Committee. As such the new Whistleblowing Policy has been adopted and has been operative as of 1st March 2016.

3.7 As members will recall a Work Plan for the year which would ensure that the Standards Committee considered everything within its Terms of Reference, was proposed in December 2015. The content of the Work Plan was agreed at the Standards Committee meeting in January 2016.

3.8 The matters within the Standards committee work plan in respect of this meeting included a review as to procedures in respect of members interests. This review has been undertaken by Internal Audit Department of the Council. Unfortunately this review is not fully complete but a report will be available for the next meeting of the Committee in June 2016.

3.9 Further it was agreed at the December 2015 meeting that an annual report as to the work of the Standards committee over the preceding year would be prepared. This will be brought to the next meeting in June 2016, in order that all matters considered by the Standards Committee within the municipal year can be included.

3.10 Further it was agreed as part of the Standards Committee work plan that appropriate and comprehensive training would be provided to members in respect of the "Standards and Ethical" regime. As such with the all-out elections in May 2016, and the likelihood that there will be a large influx of new members, it has been agreed with Democratic Services that training sessions will be provided in respect of the Code of Conduct, Members interests and the other areas within the remit of the Standards Committee, to form an important part of the Induction process. Further, existing members will be encouraged to attend this training.

3.11 The new part of the Council's website relating to the work of the Standards Committee should be fully operative by the time of the meeting on 31 March 2016 and it is hoped that its operation will be available to be shown to the Committee, by colleagues from IT.

3.12 A further recommendation made in December 2015 by the Standards Committee was that the work of the Committee should be further promoted and publicised. The profile of the Standards Committee has been raised with members, due to the extensive changes above having been taken to and discussed at the full Council meeting in January 2016. Further many of the changes referred to above have been included in the Commissioners 12

months update to DCLG, which was submitted at the time of the restoration of a number of powers to the Council. As stated above, the profile of Standards Committee will be further raised as part of the induction programme for new members following the all-out elections in May 2016.

3.13 It is further intended that the profile of the Standards Committee is raised within the Council staff, by employee briefings and discussion at senior manager meetings and briefings. Further communications work is intended to be undertaken at the time of the publication of the Committees Annual Report in June 2016.

4. Options considered and recommended proposal

4.1 There were many options considered for each of the issues examined by the working group and these are outlined in the report of the working group which was previously considered by the Standards Committee

5. Consultation

5.1 Internal consultation has been undertaken with colleagues in other teams e.g. website design. The working group itself was a forum for consultation between Councillors, the Independent Person, Independent member Parish Councillor and relevant officers. Appropriate further consultation has taken place with Unions, in respect of for example the Whistleblowing Policy.

6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

6.1 Standards Committee: approval 10th December 2015

Council Meeting accepted recommendations January 2016

Implementation of changes as set out above May/June 2016.

Accountable Officer – Monitoring Officer.

7. Financial and Procurement Implications

7.1 None

8. Legal Implications

8.1 Since the Introduction of the Localism Act 2011, there is no legal obligation to have a Standards Committee. Rotherham Council has decided to retain the Committee to demonstrate the Council commitment to high ethical standards. The Council is, however under a legal duty to:

- Promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members of the authority
- Secure that a code of conduct is adopted by the authority.

In addition the Council

- Must have in place arrangements under which allegations can be investigated and
- Must have in place arrangements under which decisions on allegations can be made.

9. Human Resources Implications

9.1 The majority of this report relates to members and not officers. However the revision of the Whistleblowing Procedure should enable officers to report concerns without fear of recriminations.

10. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

10.1 None

11 Equalities and Human Rights Implications

11.1 The Code of Conduct and overall Standards regime applies equally to all members and co-opted members.

12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

12.1 Some recommendations will require input from other directorates e.g website design and communications

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 There is a risk that without an appropriate Standards regime public confidence in the Council will not be fully restored.

14. Accountable Officer(s)

Stuart Fletcher , Legal Services, Riverside House, Main Street, Rotherham, S60 1AE

Tel : 01709 823523



Public/Private Report
Council/or Other Formal Meeting

Summary Sheet**Standards Committee Report**

Standards Committee March 31st 2016

Title

Update on the Handling of Complaints of possible Breaches of the Code of Conduct for Members

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

N/A

Report Author(s)

Stuart Fletcher, Legal & Democratic Services, Riverside House, Main Street, Rotherham .S60 1AE
Tel : 01709 823523

Dermot Pearson, Assistant Director Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Tel: 01709 255768

Ward(s) Affected

All

Executive Summary

A report updating the Committee on the Handling of Complaints of possible Breaches of the Code of Conduct for Members

Recommendations

That the Committee notes the steps that have been taken to resolve the complaints

List of Appendices Included

None

Background Papers

Code of Conduct

Papers held on file by the Monitoring Officer

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Title Update on the Handling of Complaints of possible Breaches of the Code of Conduct for Members

1. Recommendations

1.1 That the Standards Committee

- i) notes the steps that have been taken to resolve the complaints received, as set out at paragraph 2 below and
- ii) notes the resolution of those complaints which have been concluded as set out at paragraph 2 below.

2. Background

- 2.1 Since the previous committee meeting, the following steps have been taken to consider and respond to allegations that the Code of Conduct for Elected Members has been breached.
- 2.2 A complaint has been received that information allegedly provided in confidence to a member of a Parish Council was discussed at a meeting of the Parish Council. The views of the Parish Councillor have been received and the matter has been referred to the Independent Person for his views. A further update will be provided to the next meeting of the Committee.
- 2.3 A complaint has been received that a Borough Councillor made an inappropriate comment to an officer in relation to the issuing of a parking ticket. The views of the Councillor have been sought but not yet received. A further update will be provided to the next meeting.
- 2.4 As stated at the last meeting, a complaint was received from a member of the public that a Parish Councillor was rude and threatening to him in a Parish Council meeting. The views of the Independent Person were requested and after reviewing the relevant evidence, which included listening to a recording of the relevant Parish Council meeting, he concluded that there had been provocation of the Parish Councillor by the Complainant and that the remarks were made under duress.
- 2.5 As such the Independent Person felt that due to the circumstances of the case there should be no further investigation.
- 2.6 The Monitoring Officer concurred with this view and complainant and the Parish Councillor were written to informing them of this decision. The complainant has subsequently submitted further information in relation to this matter and asked that the issue be reviewed. This matter is currently under review by the new Monitoring Officer.
- 2.7 A complaint has been received that a Parish Councillor called a member of the public corrupt in the presence of a number of other Parish Councillors and members of the public.

- 2.8 The views of the relevant Parish Councillor have been sought but none have been provided. This matter has been referred to the new Monitoring Officer for consideration and a further update will be provided to the Committee at the next meeting.
- 2.9 A complaint has been received that a Parish Councillor was offensive to a member of the public. The previous Monitoring Officer did not investigate this matter but was informed that the matter had been dealt with by the Police through a process of restorative justice. As such the previous Monitoring Officer considered the matter to be resolved between the parties and that there was no requirement for a standards investigation to take place.
- 2.10 The previous Monitoring Officer wrote to the complainant and the Parish Councillor to that effect. The Parish Councillor has since contacted the current Monitoring Officer and stated that he was not acting in his civic capacity at time of the incident. The Monitoring officer has advised the Parish Councillor that as far as the Standards Committee is concerned the matter is concluded, and the letter to him will be kept on file, should anything of a similar nature happen in the future. The matter is therefore considered to be concluded as far as the Standards Committee is concerned.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 The relevant issues within each complaint are set out above.

4. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 4.1 All relevant options as to the handling of the individual complaints set out above, were considered.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Where appropriate, consultation has taken place with the Independent Person

6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 6.1 The handling of complaints of breaches of the Code of Conduct is ongoing. The Monitoring Officer is the responsible officer for this.

7. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 7.1 Any work undertaken by the Monitoring Officer in dealing with these complaints is contained within the budget for Legal Services.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1 The Council has a statutory duty to uphold ethical standards

9.0 Human Resources Implications

9.1 None

10.0 Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

10.1 None

11.0 Equalities and Human Rights Implications

11.1 The Code of Conduct applies equally to all members and co-opted members.

12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

12.1 None

13.0 Risks and Mitigation

13.1 It is the Standards Committee's responsibility to enforce the Code of Conduct. It is the Councils duty to promote high standards of ethical conduct. Therefore if the Standards Committee does not monitor any allegations of breaches of the code the standards regime could fall into disrepute.

14. Accountable Officer(s)

Dermot Pearson, Assistant Director Legal Services and Monitoring Officer; Tel 01709 255768