

Summary Sheet

Standards and Ethics Committee Report

Standards and Ethics Committee 14th January 2016

Title

Proposed Standards and Ethics Committee Work Plan 2016

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

Catherine A. Parkinson, Interim Assistant Director Legal & Democratic Services and
Monitoring Officer Tel: 01709 255768

Ward(s) Affected

All

Executive Summary

A report proposing a Work Plan for the Standards and Ethics Committee for the year 2016.

Recommendations

That the Standards and Ethics Committee consider and adopt the proposed Work Plan subject to any amendments made by the Committee.

List of Appendices Included

Proposed Work Plan

Background Papers

Overarching report of the Standards Committee Working Group.

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Title Proposed Standards and Ethics Committee Work Plan 2016

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Standards and Ethics Committee consider and adopt the proposed Work Plan subject to any amendments made by the Committee

2. Background

- 2.1 A recommendation at the previous Standards Committee was that a Work Plan be introduced and followed by the Standards Committee. It was felt that this would ensure that the Standards Committee was more proactive and ensure that all of the items within its remit and specifically within the Committee's Terms of Reference were considered appropriately.
- 2.2 A draft work plan was considered at the previous meeting, in the context of the overarching report of the Standards Committee Working Group. A fuller suggested Work Plan is at Appendix 1. All of the items within the Terms of Reference are included in the Work Plan for 2016. This does mean however that there appears to be very full work programme for the Standards Committee over this period. The Committee is therefore asked to consider whether a review of all items over an annual period is appropriate, and whether such a review should take place over a longer period. Also while the proposed Work Plan does appear to be full, the Committee is asked to consider if there are any related matters which should be considered through the year.
- 2.3 Further the Committee is asked to consider the way in which the Work Plan is approached and the way in which the reviews as set out in the Work Plan are carried out. It was considered that the Standards Committee Working Group worked well in respect of its overarching review of the Standards Committee and the Committee is therefore asked to consider whether a similar arrangement would be useful to be involved in the work of the Standards Committee on an ongoing basis.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 The relevant issues are set out above.

4. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 4.1 There is an option not to have a Work Plan for the Committee, but there would be a risk that all of the items in the Terms of Reference may not be appropriately considered by the Committee.
- 4.2 Further there is an option not have a Working Group involved in the work of the Standards and Ethics Committee.

5. Consultation

5.1 N/A

6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

6.1 The work as set out in the Work Plan would be carried out throughout 2016.

6.2 The Monitoring Officer would be accountable for ensuring that the appropriate work was carried out in accordance with the Work Plan.

7. Financial and Procurement Implications

7.1 Any work undertaken by the Monitoring Officer in dealing with this Work Plan is contained within the budget for Legal Services.

8. Legal Implications

8.1 The Council has a statutory duty to uphold ethical standards and as such the Work Plan contributes to this.

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 None

12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

12.1 None

13.0 Risks and Mitigation

13.1 As stated above, there is an option not to have a Work Plan for the Committee, but there would be a risk that all of the items in the Terms of reference may not be appropriately considered by the Committee.

14. Accountable Officer(s)

Catherine A. Parkinson, Interim Assistant Director Legal & Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer; Tel 01709 255768

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

Approvals Obtained from:-

Interim Assistant Director Legal & Democratic Services and Monitoring officer
Catherine A. Parkinson