

Summary Sheet

Standards and Ethics Committee Report

Standards and Ethics Committee Meeting 9th March 2017

Title

Standards and Ethics Committee Working Group re Code of Conduct and Associated Procedures

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)

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Ward(s) Affected

All

Executive Summary

A report updating the Committee on the progress of the Standards and Ethics Committee Working, in its review of the Code of Conduct and associated procedures.

Recommendations

That the Committee note the minutes of the Standards and Ethics Working Group of 31st January, 2017.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 - Minutes of the Standards and Ethics Working Group Meeting of 31st January 2017

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Title

Standards and Ethics Committee Working Group re Code of Conduct and Associated Procedures

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Committee note the minutes of the Standards and Ethics Working Group of 31st January, 2017.

2. Background

- 2.1 At the last meeting of the Standards and Ethics Committee on 12th January 2017, a Working Group was established to review the Council's Code of Conduct and associated procedures.
- 2.2 A meeting of the Working Group took place on 31 January 2017. The minutes of that meeting are at Appendix 1. At that meeting the Council's current Code of Conduct was considered along with versions of a simpler Code of Conduct which are used in other authorities.
- 2.3 It was agreed that the consultation should take place with the Lead Commissioner Sir Derek Myers, about his views of the Code of Conduct and the nature of the Code be further considered at the next meeting of the Working Group.
- 2.4 The next meeting of the Working Group is arranged for 6 March 2017. At this meeting the current procedures for investigating allegations of breaches of the Code of Conduct will also be considered, along with more streamlined versions from organisations such as Bradford Council and Doncaster Council. As stated above, the content of the Code of Conduct itself will be further considered at the Working Group meeting. The substance of the discussions the conclusions reached and any recommendations made will be reported to the meeting of the Standards and Ethics Committee on 9th March 2017.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 The key issues are referred to above.

4. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 4.1 Options as to the content of the Code of Conduct and associated procedures are being considered by the Standards and Ethics Working Group, who will make appropriate recommendations to the Standards and Ethics Committee.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Any recommendations of the Standards and Ethics Working Group to change the Code of Conduct would need to be considered by the Standards and Ethics Committee and if approved full Council.

6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

6.1 None at this stage

7. Financial and Procurement Implications

7.1 None

8. Legal Implications

8.1 The Council and the Standards and Ethics Committee have a statutory duty to maintain and promote ethical standards. Pursuant to the Localism Act 2011, the Council is required to adopt an appropriate Code of Conduct and arrangements for the investigation of allegations of breach of the Code of Conduct.

9. Human Resources Implications

9.1 None

10. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

10.1 None

11. Equalities and Human Rights Implications

11.1 None

12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

12.1 None

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 None

14. Accountable Officer(s)

Dermot Pearson, Assistant Director, Legal Services

Appendix 1

Minutes of the Standards and Ethics Working Group Meeting 31st January 2017