

Summary Sheet

Name of Committee and Date of Committee Meeting

Standards and Ethics Committee - 14 June 2018

Report Title

Local Codes and Protocols

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Judith Badger, Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Service

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

All

Executive Summary

This report considers what work the Committee might wish to do on the development of local codes and protocols to supplement the existing Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members and the Member / Officer Protocol.

Recommendation

That the Committee appoint a Working Party to develop new local codes and protocols identified by the Committee

List of Appendices Included

None

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

Local Codes and Protocols

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Committee appoint a Working Party to develop new local codes and protocols identified by the Committee

2. Background

- 2.1 The Committee's terms of reference include:

To review and recommend such other protocols, local codes and guidance as may be considered desirable to build upon the rules contained within the Code of Conduct whilst not forming part of it.

And at present the only such protocol or code is the Member / Officer Protocol.

- 2.2 The topics which are covered by such protocols and codes would include:

- Planning Protocol [usually a matter for an authority's Planning Board]
- Use of Resources Guidance for Members
- Gifts and Hospitality Guidance for Members
- Social Media Guidance for Members

And councils may develop particular protocols in response to issues which arise or on topics where there is a demand from members for guidance.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 The Committee is invited to consider which further protocol(s) or code(s) should be prioritised for development and to decide whether the appointment of a Working Group would be the appropriate mechanism.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 6.1 Not applicable

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 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. Further Codes and Protocols which offer members guidance on issues arising from the Code of Conduct can assist in maintaining high ethical standards.

8. Human Resources Implications

- 8.1 None

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 None

10. Equalities and Human Rights Implications

- 10.1 None

11. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

- 11.1 None

12 Risks and Mitigation

- 12.1 A failure to maintain high ethical standards among Borough, Town and Parish Councillors would undermine public confidence in individual councillors, in their local authorities and in local authorities generally.

13. Accountable Officer(s)

Dermot Pearson, Assistant Director of Legal Services