



STANDARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Report Title	Work Plan for the Standards Committee
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AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Committee Meeting Date:	19 December 2016
Policy Document:	No
Directorate:	Borough Secretary and Monitoring Officer

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to ask Councillors to consider adopting a Work Plan for the Standards Committee.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Standards Committee asks the Working Group, *Councillor Training Strategy – Ethics and Governance*, to develop a draft Work Plan for the Standards Committee to be presented to the Standards Committee on 20 March 2017 for consideration and approval.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background and Issues

- 3.1.1 At its meeting on 14 September 2015 the Standards Committee set up the following two Working Groups:

- a) A Working Group to consider the Northampton Borough Council Members' Code of Conduct and the Arrangements for dealing with allegations of breaches of the Northampton Borough Council Members' Code of Conduct and of Codes of Conduct adopted by Parish Councils to formulate recommendations to Full Council regarding the revision of these documents and procedures. (Agenda item 6 refers.)

- b) A Working Group to consider the training requirements of all Members of the Council in relation to ethical and governance matters within the remit of the Standards Committee and devise a Training Strategy, which also includes consideration of the extent to which such training should be extended to Parish Councils within the Borough. (Agenda item 8 refers.)

3.1.2 To enable the Standards Committee to plan its workload it is suggested that a draft Work Plan for the Standards Committee for 2017/2018 is developed by the Standards Working Group and that the Work Plan takes into account the Governance Action Plan reported to the Audit Committee on 5 December 2016, in so far as the issues in the Plan refer to Standards/Ethics issues. It is recommended that the draft Work Plan is presented by the Chair of the Working Group to the next meeting of the Committee on 20 March 2017 for consideration and approval.

3.1.3 It is suggested that the work of the two Working Groups is included within the Standards Committee Work Plan for 2017/2018.

3.1.4 It is further suggested that Ethics, Governance and Cultural issues such as the items listed below are included in the Work Plan:

- Code of Conduct and Arrangements for investigating alleged breaches
- Register of Interests and Gifts and Hospitality
- Training Strategy for all Members of the Council in relation to ethical and governance matters
- Organisational Ethics and Culture
- Parish Councils
- A Communications Strategy to promote the work of the Standards Committee and the importance of ethical governance
- The refresh of the Council's Whistleblowing Policy
- Consideration of the CIPFA International Framework: Good Governance in the Public Sector in so far as it relates to the work of the Standards Committee

3.1.5 The Working Group will develop the above list into a detailed draft Work Plan and add any further items it considers appropriate.

3.1.6 The draft Standards Committee Work Plan will be presented to the Standards Committee at its meeting on 20 March 2017 for approval.

3.2 Choices

3.2.1 It is recommended that the Standards Committee asks the Working Group, *Councillor Training Strategy – Ethics and Governance*, to develop a draft Work

Plan for the Standards Committee to be presented to the Standards Committee on 20 March 2017 for consideration and approval

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 This report does not have any direct implications on Policy. Policy implications are set out in the body of this report.

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 This report does not have any direct resource implications.

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 The legal framework is outlined in the body of the report.

4.4 Equality

4.4.1 There are no direct equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

4.5.1 Not applicable.

4.6 Other Implications

4.6.1 None

5. Background Papers

5.1 None.

**Tracy Tiff
Scrutiny Officer**