

## **FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME**

**Submitted by:**        **Head of Central Services and Monitoring Officer**

**Ward(s) affected:**    **All**

### **Purpose of the Report**

To invite the Members of the Committee to consider its programme for future work (other than the requirement to deal with complaints as they occur).

### **Recommendation**

**That Committee consider its future work programme.**

### **Reasons**

To promote and maintain high standards of conduct and to comply with the Localism Act 2011.

## **1.     Background**

1.1     This Committee was established by the Borough Council in response to the requirements imposed on it by the Localism Act 2011, and following the abolition of Standards for England. The Committee has the following functions delegated to it:

- (1)     To ensure that the Council adheres to the highest standards of probity in all of its transactions.
- (2)     To promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members and co-opted Members.
- (3)     To assist Members and co-opted Members to observe the Members' Code of Conduct.
- (4)     To advise the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct.
- (5)     To monitor the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct.
- (6)     To advise, train or arrange to train Members and co-opted Members on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct.
- (7)     To grant dispensations to Members and co-opted Members from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct.
- (8)     To deal with any reports from the Monitoring Officer on any matter and to appoint sub-committees to determine such matters.
- (9)     To exercise all the above functions in relation to the Parish Councils wholly or mainly within the area of the Borough and in relation to Members of those Parish Councils.
- (10)    To receive reports following the completion of investigations into allegations made under the Council's Whistleblowing procedure and other investigations which disclose failings in the Council's existing procedures.

1.2 These functions in the main may be regarded as the standing business of the Committee and are predominantly reactive, for example dealing with complaints and applications for dispensations.

1.3 The Committee's views are sought on which areas, if any, it would wish to see prioritised in terms of the preparation and issuing of guidance on best practice. Any such areas identified would then be the subject of a further, detailed report.

## 2. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

2.1 The new regime will contribute to the overall ethical wellbeing of the Council, and help to ensure a culture of high ethical standards, which the public and the Council's partners can have confidence in. This will thereby contribute to the Council's priority of transforming our Council to achieve excellence.

## 3. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

3.1 The Council will remain under a statutory duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct for its elected and co-opted Members and to provide the Monitoring Officer with such staff, accommodation and such other resources as are in his opinion sufficient to allow him to perform the duties of the post.

## 4. **Equality Impact Assessment**

No differential equality impact issues have been identified.

## 5. **Major Risks**

There are no specific risk issues.

## 6. **Financial Implications**

There are none flowing from this report.

## 7. **List of Appendices**

None