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**Report of Helen Lynch, Head of Legal and Democratic Service and Monitoring Officer**

**Electoral division(s) affected:**

None.

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To invite members to review the social media toolkit for members following its implementation in 2021.

**Executive summary**

2. The Standards Committee on 5 October 2018 agreed a social media guidance and further developed this by introducing social media toolkit for members which was introduced in 2021.
3. The Standards Committee agreed to undertake a review of the social media toolkit following its implementation and to ensure that this remains accurate and fit for purpose.

**Recommendations**

4. The Standards Committee is recommended to:
  - a. note the contents of the report;
  - b. agree the Social Media toolkit remains fit for purpose and to conduct reviews on a biennial basis. .

## **Background**

5. On 5 October 2018 the Standards Committee approved some social media guidance for Members, a copy of which is shown at Appendix 2.
6. Building on the guidance the Council developed a Social Media Toolkit (the Toolkit) for members was introduced prior to the local elections in May 2021.
7. Members of the Standards Committee agreed as part of the work programme to periodically review the Toolkit to ensure that this remains fit for purpose and meets the needs of members in respect of conduct on social media.
8. The Toolkit builds on the existing guidance as well as incorporating good practice recommendations from the Local Government Association (LGA) with a view to providing members with support on all aspects of social media.
9. The Toolkit is an interactive document which is available to all members through the member portal. A copy of the Toolkit has been reproduced at Appendix 3 of this report.
10. As part of the member development and induction training, all members of the Council following the election in May 2021 received training delivered by the Monitoring Officer on the Code of Conduct, Social Media and the Toolkit.
11. The Monitoring Officer has conducted a review of the current guidance from the LGA and researched any updates for best practice. There are no changes to report to the Committee and therefore the guidance and Toolkit continues to reflect best practice.
12. Members of the Standards Committee are invited to review the guidance and the Toolkit and provide feedback on it to ensure that it remains fit for purpose and provides clear, concise and easy to understand guidance for members on the use of social media.

## **Background papers**

- None

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Legal Implications**

The Council has a duty under section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by its members.

### **Finance**

None.

### **Consultation**

None.

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

None.

### **Climate Change**

None.

### **Human Rights**

None.

### **Crime and Disorder**

None.

### **Staffing**

None.

### **Accommodation**

None.

### **Risk**

None.

### **Procurement**

None.