



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

Electoral division(s) affected:

None.

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To agree the Work Programme for 2023/24.

Executive summary

- 2 There is no requirement for the Committee to have a work programme. However, it is considered good practice to have one as it helps demonstrate the work done by the Committee in promoting and maintaining high standards of ethical conduct throughout the year.
- 3 On 10 June 2022, the Committee approved a work programme in relation to the roles and functions of the Committee for the municipal year 2022/23. It is customary to agree the work programme at the first meeting of the municipal year.

Recommendations

- 4 The Standards Committee is recommended to:
 - (a) note the progress against the work programme approved on 10 June 2022 for 2022/23.
 - (b) Comment on and agree the draft work programme for 2023/24 shown at Appendix 3 of the report.

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Background

- 5 The terms of reference of the Standards Committee are set out in Article 7 of the Constitution. They are as follows:
- (a) promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Members and Co-opted Members of the Council and Parish and Town Council Members;
 - (b) assisting Members and Co-opted Members of the Council and Parish and Town Council Members to observe the Members' Code of Conduct and where appropriate, the Planning Code of Practice;
 - (c) advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct and the Planning Code of Practice;
 - (d) monitoring the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct and the Planning Code of Practice;
 - (e) advising, training or arranging to train Members and Co-opted Members of the Council and Parish and Town Council Members on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct and Planning Code of Practice;
 - (f) granting dispensations to Members and Co-opted Members of the Council from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct and Planning Code of Practice in circumstances where this function has not been delegated to the Monitoring Officer;
 - (g) the assessment and/or referral for investigation of allegations of misconduct on the part of Members and Co-opted Members of the Council and Parish and Town Council Members, if requested to undertake this function by the Monitoring Officer;
 - (h) the determination of allegations of misconduct on the part of Members and Co-opted Members of the Council and Parish and Town Council Members;
 - (i) dealing with any alleged breach by a Member of a Council Protocol, in accordance with procedures approved by the Committee;
 - (j) overview of the Officers' Code of Conduct; and
 - (k) overview of the Protocol on Member/Officer Relations

Work Programme 2022/23

- 6 The Committee considered and agreed the work programme for 2022/23 at its meeting on 10 June 2022. A copy of the work programme with the details of when the items were considered is shown at Appendix 2 of this report for information.
- 7 The Committee will note the work programme for 2022/23 has been completed. However, due the extent of the review of the Local Determination Procedure and a proposal to combine this with the Local Assessment Procedure, this item was moved from the 5 December 2022 to 17 March 2023.
- 8 The Committee will also note that the Debate Not Hate Campaign and Social Media Toolkit Review, the Town and Parish co-opted members of the Standards Committee and the Recruitment of Independent Persons have been added to be considered at the March meeting. These have been added in response to matters as they have arisen and demonstrate the flexible nature of the work programme.

Work Programme 2023/24

- 9 The Committee is asked to agree the work programme for the municipal year. A copy of the draft work programme for 2023/24 is shown at Appendix 3.
- 10 The draft work programme 2023/24 currently includes the previously agreed standing items in relation to local and national picture updates and the Debate Not Hate Campaign.
- 11 It is recognised that there is flexibility in the work programme to include any other issues which arise throughout the year. This will enable other more specific items to be added to the work programme as they arise.

Background papers

- None.

Other useful documents

- None.

Author

Lauren Potts

Tel: 03000 267870

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

The Council has a duty under s. 27 of the Localism Act 2011 to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by its members and to adopt a code of conduct that is consistent with the Nolan Principles. It is anticipated that a planned work programme to deal with the specific roles and functions of the Committee, as set out in the Constitution, will assist compliance with this duty.

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.

Appendix 2: Work Programme 2022/23

10 June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work Programme 2022/23• Review of national standards picture.• Complaints update.
2 September 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of national standards picture.• Complaints update.• Annual Report.
5 December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of national standards picture.• Complaints update.• Member Training and Development.• Review of Local Determination Procedure. – deferred to 17 March 2023
17 March 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of national standards picture.• Complaints update.• Review of work programme 2022/23 and future work programme.• Debate Not Hate Campaign and Social Media Toolkit Review.• Review of Local Assessment and Local Determination Procedure.• Town and Parish co-opted members of the Standards Committee• Recruitment of Independent Persons

Appendix 3: Draft Work Programme 2023/24

8 June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of national standards picture.• Complaints update.• Debate Not Hate Campaign.• Annual Report.
8 September 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of national standards picture.• Debate Not Hate Campaign.• Complaints update.
4 December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of national standards picture.• Complaints update.• Debate Not Hate Campaign.
7 March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of national standards picture.• Complaints update.• Debate Not Hate Campaign.• Review of work programme 2023/24 and future work programme.