

# North Tyneside Council Report to Annual Council Date: 18 May 2017

## ITEM 15

Standards Committee -  
Annual Report 2016/17

Portfolio(s): Elected Mayor

Cabinet Member(s): Mrs N Redfearn

Report from Service Area: Law and Governance

Responsible Officer: Vivienne Geary,  
Head of Law and Governance Tel: (0191) 643 339

Wards affected: All

### PART 1

#### 1.1 Purpose

To submit the Standards Committee's Annual Report for 2016/17.

#### 1.2 Recommendation(s)

Council is requested to note and receive the Standards Committee's Annual Report 2016/17.

#### 1.3 Forward Plan

This report first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 6 February 2017.

#### 1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report does not relate directly to any of the themes/programmes/projects in the Our North Tyneside Plan.

#### 1.5 Standards Committee Annual Report 2016/17

- 1.5.1 The Committee is responsible for the promotion of ethical standards within the Authority, helping to secure adherence to the Members' Code of Conduct, monitoring the operation of the Code within North Tyneside, promoting and reviewing the Whistleblowing Policy for Members, reviewing complaints made against Members in respect of alleged breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct and conducting hearings following investigation and determining complaints made against Councillors in respect of alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct.

The Standards Committee Annual Report 2016/17 is attached at Appendix 1.

The report provides further background information regarding the Standards Committee and sets out the work undertaken by the Committee and its Sub-Committees over the municipal year. The report highlights the ways in which the Standards Committee has influenced and shaped policy and the promotion and maintenance of ethical standards of conduct by the Elected Mayor, Councillors, Co-opted Members and church and parent governor representatives.

The Committee will consider its work programme for the new municipal year 2017-18 at its first meeting of the new municipal year in June 2017. The Committee has recently met informally to discuss the work programme and its development for next year. The suggestions received will be fed into the new work programme.

### **1.5.2 Decision options**

The following decision options are available for consideration by Council:

#### Option 1

To note and receive the Annual Report of the Standards Committee for 2016/17.

#### Option 2

To refer the Annual Report of the Standards Committee for 2016/17 back to the Standards Committee for further consideration.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

### **1.6 Reasons for recommended option**

Option 1 is recommended for the following reason:

The Annual Report of the Standards Committee for 2016/17 provides a record of the work of the Standards Committee over the past year.

### **1.7 Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Standards Committee Annual Report 2016/17.

### **1.8 Contact officers**

Stephen Ballantyne – Lawyer Specialist – Governance and Employment, Law and Governance, tel. (0191) 643 5329.

Alison Campbell – Senior Business Partner, tel. (0191) 643 7038.

### **1.9 Background information**

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

The Localism Act 2011.

The Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members.

## **PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING**

### **2.1 Finance and other resources**

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### **2.2 Legal**

The Localism Act 2011 places a statutory duty on the Authority to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by its elected and co-opted Members and to appoint Independent Persons.

### **2.3 Consultation/community engagement**

#### **2.3.1 Internal Consultation**

The Standards Committee at its meeting on 2 March 2017 considered and approved the Annual Report and referred it to this Council meeting.

#### **2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement**

There has been no external consultation in relation to the Annual Report as it relates to the internal governance of the Authority.

### **2.4 Human rights**

There are no human rights issues arising from this report.

### **2.5 Equalities and diversity**

There are no equalities and diversity issues arising from this report.

### **2.6 Risk management**

There are no risk management issues arising from this report.

### **2.7 Crime and disorder**

There are no crime and disorder issues arising from this report.

### **2.8 Environment and sustainability**

There are no environment and sustainability issues arising from this report.

## **PART 3 - SIGN OFF**

- Deputy Chief Executive  X
- Head of Service  X

- Chief Finance Officer  X
- Monitoring Officer  X
- Head of Corporate Strategy  X