

# North Tyneside Council

## Report to Standards Committee

### Date: 5 December 2013

#### ITEM 8

Title: Committee on  
Standards in Public  
Life – Annual Report

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Governance and Employment

**Wards affected:** All

#### 1.1 Purpose:

To inform the Committee of the Annual Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life.

#### 1.2 Recommendation(s):

The Committee is requested to consider and note the report.

#### 1.3 Information

1.3.1 The Committee on Standards in Public Life was established under the chairmanship of Lord Nolan by the then Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon Sir John Major, in October 1994. The Committee is currently chaired by Lord Bew. The Committee is an independent advisory Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB). Its members are appointed by the Prime Minister. The Committee has the following terms of reference:

“To examine current concerns about standards of conduct of all holders of public office, including arrangements relating to financial and commercial activities, and make recommendations as to any changes in present arrangements which might be required to ensure the highest standards of propriety in public life and to review issues in relation to the funding of political parties, and to make recommendations as to any changes in present arrangements”.

1.3.2 The Committee fulfils its role partly through its formal inquiries. In addition it routinely monitors and considers issues and concerns relating to standards in public life, tracks public perception of standards of conduct of public office holders and seeks to promote the Seven Principles of Public Life. The Seven Principles are incorporated into the Authority’s Code of Conduct for Members.

1.3.3 The Annual Report provides an overview of the Committee’s activities over the course of the financial year 2012/13.

1.3.4 As a part of its work in the last year the Committee has undertaken a “Standards Check”. It has examined Local Government Standards (see paragraph 38 of the Annual Report at Appendix 1) and Member’s attention is drawn to the Committee’s comments in relation to the new standards regime adopted from 1 July 2012 under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011.

**1.3 Appendices:**

Appendix – Committee on Standards in Public Life – Annual Report 2012-13 (August 2013)

**1.5 Contact officers:**

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**1.6 Background information:**

Appendix – Committee on Standards in Public Life – Annual Report 2012-13 (August 2013)

Stephen Ballantyne  
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