

# North Tyneside Council

## Report to Standards Committee

### Date: 19 June 2014

#### ITEM

Title: Review of Local Arrangements

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**Report from Directorate:** Chief Executive's Office

**Report Author:** Vivienne Geary, Monitoring Officer (Tel: 643 5339)

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Governance and Employment

**Wards affected:** All

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#### 1.1 Purpose:

To propose the establishment of a Working Group to review the Authority's Local Arrangements for dealing with complaints under the Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members.

#### 1.2 Recommendation(s):

The Committee is recommended to establish a Working Group made up of the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Committee, a Member of the Committee from each Political Group and the Authority's Independent Persons to review the Authority's Local Arrangements for dealing with complaints under the Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members.

#### 1.3 Information

The Committee at its March 2014 meeting requested that the Monitoring Officer undertake a further review of the Authority's Local Arrangements for dealing with complaints under the Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members.

In particular the Committee was of the view that an examination of the local arrangements should have a particular focus on the local resolution stage thereby avoiding the necessity for a hearing. Members were also of the view that complaints needed to be dealt with in a timely manner, particularly in the case of formal investigations leading on to a hearing, that laid down timescales should be adhered to; and for the process to not continue indefinitely. It was suggested that measures should be put in place to achieve an early resolution, or, the process shortened, if possible, for the benefit of all concerned.

Following consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Committee it is proposed to re-establish the Working Group of the Committee that looked at the Local Arrangements in 2013. The Working Group will be made up of the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Committee, a Member of the Committee from each Political Group and the Authority's Independent Persons. A working group will provide the best opportunity of capturing the views of Members in relation to the changes that they want to see to the Authority's local arrangements.

It is suggested that a report of the Working Group be brought back to the Committee at its next meeting in September 2014. If any changes to the Local Arrangements are suggested a report would then have to be submitted to a Council Meeting for the adoption of any proposed changes.

**1.4 Appendices:**

None

**1.5 Contact officers:**

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**1.6 Background information:**

Reports to and Minutes of Governance Committee Meetings

Stephen Ballantyne

**Report author**.....