

REPORT TO: Standards Committee

DATE: 10 February 2016

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer

PORTFOLIO: Leader

SUBJECT: Standards Committee Annual Report

WARDS: Borough-Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To summarise the work of the Committee in the last municipal year.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted and referred to Council for information.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Throughout the year Standards Committee was made up of nine elected members, Councillors P Lloyd Jones (Chair), M Bradshaw, Cassidy, Cole, J Lowe, McDermott, T McInerney, Parker and Wainwright. In addition, there were two co-opted independent members, Mr Tony Luxton and Mrs Anita Morris. The positions for two co-opted Parish Council Members remained vacant throughout the year, although appointments were made at Annual Council for the municipal year 2015/16. The Council's three independent persons under the provisions of the Localism Act were Professor David Norman, Mrs Dianne Howard and Mr Roy Radley and they were all invited to each meeting. The Committee met on one occasion during the year.

3.2 The role of the Standards Committee is to:

- Help Councillor and Co-opted members to observe the Members' Code of Conduct.
- Promote and maintain high standard of conduct by Councillors, Co-opted Members and Church and Parent Governor representatives.
- Advise the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct.
- Monitor the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct.
- Provide training to Councillors and Co-opted Members on matters relating to Members conduct.
- Deal with complaints against Councillors and Parish Councillors.
- Deal with matters concerning politically restricted posts.

- Deal with dispensations relating to Declarations of Interest

- 3.3 At the meeting in February 2015, members considered the Annual Report, which had noted major changes to the Standards regime and the implementation of the Localism Act. The meeting also received an update dealing with issues which had arisen in other parts of the country which had provided an insight into the nature of matters raised and how they had been dealt with elsewhere. Members also received an update on matters arising within Halton. It was noted that no further investigations had been required into any of the three complaints which were received.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

- 6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None.

- 6.2 Employment Learning and Skills in Halton

None

- 6.3 A Healthy Halton

None.

- 6.4 A Safer Halton

None.

- 6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 7.1 No risks have been identified which require control measures.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 None.

9.0 A LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

9.1 There are no background papers within the meaning of the Act.