

REPORT TO: Standards Committee

DATE: 12 February 2020

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 Councillors P Lloyd Jones (Chair), M Bradshaw, Howard, J Lowe, McDermott, Sinnott, Wainwright, Wharton and Zygadlo. In addition, there was one co-opted independent member, Mr Tony Luxton. There was also one co-opted Parish Council Member, Rev Canon D Felix and one vacancy. The Council's three independent members under the provisions of the Localism Act were Professor David Norman, Mrs Diane Howard and Mr Roy Radley. 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 a 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 on 6 February 2019, the resignation of Mrs Anita Morris as a co-opted independent member was noted.

Members considered the Annual Report which summarised the work of the Committee in the last municipal year.

In addition, Members also received a report which provided an update on issues which had arisen in other parts of the country, which gave an insight into the kinds of issues faced and the manner in which they had proceeded.

A verbal update was given on local matters which had been considered since the last meeting.

The Monitoring Officer reported that no matters had been brought to his attention which required a formal investigation.

Members received a verbal report on the recommendations of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, which had been published a few days before the meeting. Legislative developments are still awaited.

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 controlled 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.