

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

2 OCTOBER 2019

REPORT OF MONITORING OFFICER

A.2 “THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ETHICAL STANDARDS REPORT DATED JANUARY 2019 FOLLOWING A REVIEW BY THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE”

(Report prepared by Lisa Hastings and Ian Ford)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To enable the Committee to consider a breakdown of:-

- (1) which of the CSPL’s recommendations required changes in legislation;
- (2) which of the CSPL’s ‘good practice’ recommendations could be adopted and implemented straight away by local authorities; and
- (3) which of the ‘good practice’ recommendations referred to in (2) above this Council has already implemented.

BACKGROUND

The Committee, at its meeting held on 3 July 2019 (Minute 7 refers), received an update from the Monitoring Officer on the progress being made on the implementation of the Committee on Standards in Public Life’s (CSPL) recommendations.

The Committee had before it a summary of the issues, overall findings and recommendations arising from the CSPL’s review which formed the basis of the Monitoring Officer’s update.

The Monitoring Officer also outlined the Council’s current position in regards to professional indemnity cover for Members, Officers and the Independent Persons. She confirmed that there was no business need at present for such general cover but that decisions would be taken as needed on their individual merits. An update on this matter is provided at the end of the Report.

Following a discussion of the issues arising in the update the Monitoring Officer undertook to submit to the next meeting of the Committee a breakdown of:-

- (1) which of the CSPL’s recommendations required changes in legislation;
- (2) which of the CSPL’s ‘good practice’ recommendations could be adopted and implemented straight away by local authorities; and
- (3) which of the ‘good practice’ recommendations referred to in (2) above this Council

has already implemented.

Appendix A to this report provides an update on the progress made (if any) in implementing the recommendations contained in the CSPL's report.

Appendix B to this report provides a breakdown of this Council's current practice in relation to the list of best practice recommendations to local authorities contained in the CSPL's report.

In relation to the Committee's previous resolution on 3 July 2019 that the Head of Finance, Revenues and Benefits Services be requested to produce for the Committee's consideration a business case for providing a general professional indemnity cover for Members, Officers and, in particular, the Independent Persons, this matter is on-going and will be reported back to Committee when progressed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (a) That, in relation to Appendix A, the Committee notes the updates provided;
and**
- (b) That, in relation to Appendix B, the Committee decides whether it wishes to recommend any changes to the Council's current practices.**