

STANDARS COMMITTEE

09 APRIL 2025

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

A.3 STANDARDS COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2025/26

(Report prepared by Karen Hayes)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- To present for approval the Standards Committee's proposed work programme covering the period April 2025 to March 2026.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A work programme covering the period April 2025 to March 2026 has been prepared which reflects the activity required falling within the responsibilities of the Standards Committee's Terms of Reference.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Standards Committee approves its Work Programme for 2025/26.

REASON(S) FOR THE RECOMMENDATION(S)

To provide a work programme which reflects the activity required falling within the responsibilities of the Standards Committee's Terms of Reference.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

There are no alternative options associated with this report.

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

The existence of sound governance, internal control and financial management practices and procedure are essential to the delivery of the Corporate Priorities supported by effective management and forward planning within this overall framework.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS (including legislation & constitutional powers)

Statutory and regulatory requirements have been recognised within the work programme.

FINANCE AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Finance and other resources

Although there are no significant financial implications associated with the work programme of

the Committee, additional officer time or resources may be required to support the activities of the Committee and existing budgets will be reviewed as appropriate if the potential for additional costs arises.

USE OF RESOURCES AND VALUE FOR MONEY

The following are submitted in respect of the indicated use of resources and value for money indicators:

A) Financial sustainability: how the body plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services;	-
B) Governance: how the body ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks, including; and	The work programme of the Committee covers the function of the Committee to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members and Co-Opted Members of the Authority. The work programme aims to address these areas of responsibility within related timescales and deadlines to support, protect and enhance the Council's reputation and Standards framework.
C) Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness: how the body uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services.	-

MILESTONES AND DELIVERY

With the implementation of the work programme the Committee will be able to satisfactorily carry out its required activities.

ASSOCIATED RISKS AND MITIGATION

The work programme reflects a number of functions and activities that form part of the Council's wider governance arrangements that includes risk and assurance.

OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

There is no requirement to seek consultation on this report. This is a public document to be presented to the Standards Committee.

EQUALITIES

There are no direct implications associated with this report.

SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS

There are no direct implications associated with this report.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S AIM TO BE NET ZERO BY 2050

There are no direct implications associated with this report.

OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS

Consideration has been given to the implications of the proposed decision in respect of the following and any significant issues are set out below.

Crime and Disorder	Not applicable
Health Inequalities	Not applicable
Area or Ward affected	All Wards could be affected
ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION	
None	

PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

BACKGROUND
<p>The Standards Committee functions include promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Members and Co-Opted Members of the Authority; along with developing a culture of openness, transparency, trust and confidence between Members and in Member and Officer relationships, embedding a culture of strong ethical and corporate governance at all levels of the Council.</p> <p>In addition to the above the Standards Committee will advise the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct and the requirements for codes/protocols/other procedures relating to standards of conduct throughout the Council; therefore assessing the operation and effectiveness of the Members' Code of Conduct and other elements of the Standards Framework.</p> <p>In addition to the items set out in Appendix A, other matters may be presented to the Committee for consideration as determined by the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chairman.</p> <p>Taking into account the responsibilities of the Standards Committee as highlighted above, the proposed work programme covering the period from April 2025 up to and including March 2026 is set out in the Appendix.</p>
PREVIOUS RELEVANT DECISIONS TAKEN BY COUNCIL/CABINET/COMMITTEE ETC.
The work programme is presented to the Standards Committee annually for its consideration and approval.
BACKGROUND PAPERS AND PUBLISHED REFERENCE MATERIAL
None
APPENDICES
Appendix A – Standards Committee Work Programme 2025/26

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