

Corporate Governance & Standards Committee Report

Ward(s) affected: All

Report of Director of Corporate Services & Monitoring Officer

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Review of Arrangements for investigating allegations of breaches of the Councillors' Code of Conduct

Executive Summary

Following a request made by the then Leader of the Council at the Council meeting on 7 July 2015, the Monitoring Officer secured a review of the Council's procedures ("the Procedures") for handling complaints that councillors may have breached the Council's Code of Conduct ("the Review")

This report formally presents the Review to the Committee.

Recommendation to Committee:-

- (1) To receive the Review and a presentation from its author Hoey Ainscough Associates Ltd
- (2) To determine the way forward following the Review

Reasons for Recommendation:

To comply with the Leader's Request for a review and to ensure that the Council's Code of Conduct remains fit for purpose and in accordance with best practice.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present the Review to the Committee and for the Committee to determine the way forward.

2. Strategic Priorities

- 2.1 Improving the Constitution (of which the Procedures form part) - learning from best practice and keeping it up to date – is an important element of the Council's Governance.

3. Background

- 3.1 At Full Council on 7 July 2015, in answer to a supplementary question, the then Leader of the Council asked the Monitoring Officer to conduct an open and transparent formal review of the Council's Procedures.
- 3.2 The Monitoring Officer sought expressions of interest to carry out the Review from various qualified providers and upon the terms of reference set out in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.3 Following consultation with Councillors Manning (the relevant Lead Councillor) and Jackson (Chairman of this Committee), Hoey Ainscough Associates Ltd were appointed to carry out the Review.
- 3.4 The Review is attached to this report as **Appendix 2**.

4 Consultations

- 4.1 A list of those consulted can be found at Appendix A within Appendix 2.

5 Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 None

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 None (apart from the cost of the Review, which was contained within the Council's current budget)

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 None other than those implicit within this report and Appendices.

8. Human Resource Implications

- 8.1 None

9. Conclusion

- 9.1 The Committee is asked to receive a presentation on the Review from Hoey Ainscough Associates Ltd and then determine an appropriate way forward.

10. Background Papers

10.1 As referred to in this Report & Appendices.

11. Appendices

Appendix 1: The Terms of Reference for the Review

Appendix 2: The Review