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Ethics Committee

6 November, 2018

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

N/A- Ethics Committee

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Director of Finance and Corporate Services

**Ward(s) affected:**

**Not applicable**

**Title:**

Work Programme for the Ethics Committee 2018/19

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**Is this a key decision?**

No

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**Executive Summary:**

This report updates progress on the approved work programme for the 2018/19 municipal year and asks the Committee if it wishes to make any changes or add to the programme for the rest of the year.

**Recommendations:**

The Ethics Committee is recommended to review the work programme attached as Appendix 1 and make any changes or amendments the Committee considers appropriate.

**List of Appendices included:**

Work programme

**Other useful background papers:**

None

**Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?**

No

**Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?**

No

**Will this report go to Council?**

No

## **Report title: Work Programme for Ethics Committee 2018/19**

### **1. Context (or background)**

- 1.1 The Committee's Terms of Reference are set out in the Council's Constitution and include the consideration of matters which are relevant to the ethical governance of the Council, its members or employees. This report attaches the approved programme of work for the Committee for the rest of the municipal year. It is designed to assist the Committee to meet its objectives set out in the Terms of Reference, and to ensure that the Council complies with its obligations under section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 to promote and maintain high standards of conduct amongst elected and co-opted members.
- 1.2 The Committee's approved work programme takes account of the need to promote standards and addresses this in a number of ways. The work programme is intended to be flexible in terms of suggestions from members of the Ethics Committee as to additional or substitute areas which they would want to consider and receive reports on. However, certain items have been included which will help the Committee focus on its key aim to promote high standards of conduct for all members and employees of the Council.

### **2. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 2.1 There continues to be a standing item for each meeting, by way of a Monitoring Officer / Code of Conduct update, which incorporates a review of complaints to date and an update on any national issues on the subject of elected member conduct which may be of interest. This is flexible and can cover additional areas which the Committee is particularly concerned about, as they arise.
- 2.2 Following its meeting in July, two additional reports have been added to today's agenda to allow the Committee to consider an overview of current guidance for members on the acceptance and declaration of gifts and hospitality and the declaration of interests. There is also the report on Local Government Ombudsman cases which was deferred from the July meeting.
- 2.3 The work programme for the December meeting now includes an update on the progress of the CSPL's review of local government ethical standards as well as substantive reports on any changes proposed to guidance for members on gifts and hospitality and on declaration of interests.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee is asked to review the work programme attached as Appendix 1 and make any changes or amendments the Committee considers appropriate.

### **3. Results of consultation undertaken**

None

### **4. Timetable for implementing this decision**

- 4.1 Not applicable

## **5. Comments from Director of Finance and Corporate Services**

### **5.1 Financial implications**

There are no specific financial implications arising from the recommendations within this report.

### **5.2 Legal implications**

There are no specific legal implications arising from this report, as there is no statutory obligation on the Committee to adopt a work programme. However, the Council must comply with its obligations under section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 and the continuation of a clear programme of work would assist in compliance for the Council as a whole, in its duty to promote high standards of ethical conduct.

## **6. Other implications**

None

### **6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?**

Not applicable.

### **6.2 How is risk being managed?**

There is no direct risk to the organisation as a result of the contents of this report.

### **6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?**

If implemented, the work programme will facilitate the promotion of high standards amongst elected members in accordance with the Localism Act.

### **6.4 Equalities / EIA**

There are no public sector equality duties which are of relevance at this stage.

### **6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment**

None

### **6.6 Implications for partner organisations?**

None at this stage

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**Directorate:** Place

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Suzanne Bennett	Governance Services Officer	Place		
<b>Names of approvers for submission:</b> (officers and members)				
Finance: Graham Clark	Lead Accountant	Place	31.08.18	04.09.18
Legal: Julie Newman	City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer	Place	29.08.18	04.09.18
Director: Barry Hastie	Director of Finance and Corporate Services	Place	19.09.18	21.09.18
Cllr Walsh	Chair: Ethics Committee			

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## Appendix 1

### Work Programme for the remainder of the Municipal year 2018/2019

Meeting no. and date	Topics	Lead officer
<b>2018/19</b>		
<b>1. 13 September 2018 (Postponed to 6 November, 2018)</b>		
	Monitoring Officer/Code of Conduct/ Members Complaints Update.	Julie Newman
	Committee on Standards in Public Life Review of Local Government Standards Update	Julie Newman
	Officers Gifts and Hospitality -Inspection of Registers for first 6 months of 2018.	Julie Newman
	Members Gifts and Hospitality -Inspection of Registers for first 6 months of 2018.	Julie Newman
	Work Programme 2018/19	Julie Newman
	Local Government Ombudsman Cases	Julie Newman
	Review of Guidance for Members on Gifts and Hospitality: Current Position	Julie Newman
	Review of Guidance for Members on the Declaration of Interests: Current Position	Julie Newman
<b>2. 6 December 2018</b>		
	Monitoring Officer/Code of Conduct/ Members Complaints Update.	Julie Newman
	Annual Report of Committee on Standards in Public Life- update from national body usually published in August each year.	Julie Newman
	Annual review of Parish Councils ethical standards regime.	Julie Newman
	Code of Good Practice on Planning Matters Update	Julie Newman
	Update on Committee on Standards in Public Life's Review of Ethical Standards in Local Government	Julie Newman
	Review of Guidance for Members on Gifts and Hospitality: Proposed Changes	Julie Newman
	Review of Guidance for Members on the Declaration of Interests: Proposed Changes	Julie Newman

	Work Programme 2018/19	Julie Newman
<b>3. 28 March 2019</b>		
	Monitoring Officer/Code of Conduct/ Members Complaints Update.	Julie Newman
	Officers Gifts and Hospitality -Inspection of Registers for last 6 months of 2018.	Julie Newman
	Members Gifts and Hospitality -Inspection of Registers for last 6 months of 2018.	Julie Newman
	Work Programme 2018/19	Julie Newman