
Ethics Committee

28 March 2019

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 2019/20

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

This report suggests areas of work for the Ethics Committee for the Municipal Year 2019/20. The Committee is asked to consider the draft work programme and make any suggestions for additional or alternative reports, taking into account any work generated by its consideration of the CSPL's report on Local Government Ethical Standards earlier on the agenda for this meeting.

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, taking into account any work generated by its consideration of the CSPL's report on Local Government Ethical Standards earlier on the agenda for this meeting.

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: Draft Work Programme 2019/20

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 a proposed programme of work for the Committee, 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 draft work programme takes account of the need to promote standards and addresses this in a number of ways. It is a draft work programme and is 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. In particular, beyond the regular reports which the Committee receives each year, no additional topics have been added to allow the Committee scope to include matters arising from the earlier agenda item on the CSPL report on Local Government Ethical Standards.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

2.1 The work programme includes regular items on:

- Code of Conduct/ Monitoring Officer Update
- Declarations of gifts and hospitality by members and officers
- Ethical standards in parish councils
- Annual report to full Council
- SPL annual report

2.2 In addition it is suggested that the Ethics Committee factor into the work programme the two reviews of members' gifts and hospitality and declaration of interests, taking into account the recommendations of the CSPL report on these points and any work it wishes to undertake arising from its consideration of the CSPL report elsewhere on the agenda.

2.3 Recommendation

The Ethics Committee is recommended to review the work programme attached as Appendix 1 and make any changes or amendments the Committee considers appropriate, taking into account any work generated by its consideration of the CSPL's report on Local Government Ethical Standards earlier on the agenda for this meeting.

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

Report author(s): Carol Bradford

Name and job title: Corporate Governance Lawyer, Regulatory Team, Legal and Democratic Services

Directorate: Place

Tel and email contact: 024 7697 7271 carol.bradford@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Suzanne Bennett	Governance Services Officer	Place	12/03/19	18/03/19
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Finance: Graham Clark		Place	12/03/19	
Legal: Julie Newman	Legal Services Manager	Place	12/03/19	18/03/19
Director: Barry Hastie	Director of Finance and Corporate Services	Place	12/03/19	18/03/19
Cllr Walsh	Chair: Ethics Committee		12/03/19	12/03/19

This report is published on the council's website:
www.coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings

Appendix 1

Work Programme for the Municipal year 2019/2020

Meeting no. and date	Topics
2019/20	
1. July 2019	
	Monitoring Officer/Code of Conduct/ Members Complaints Update.
	Annual Report of the Committee
	Code on Good Practice on Planning Matters Update
	Officers Gifts and Hospitality -Inspection of Registers for second 6 months of 2018. (Held over from 2018/19)
	Members Gifts and Hospitality -Inspection of Registers for second 6 months of 2018. (Held over from 2018/19)
	Work Programme 2018/19
2. September 2019	
	Monitoring Officer/Code of Conduct/ Members Complaints Update.
	Officers Gifts and Hospitality -Inspection of Registers for first 6 months of 2019.
	Members Gifts and Hospitality -Inspection of Registers for first 6 months of 2019.
	Standards in Public Life- update from national body usually published in August each year.
	Work Programme 2018/19
3. December 2019	
	Monitoring Officer/Code of Conduct/ Members Complaints Update.
	Annual review of Parish Councils ethical standards regime.
	Work Programme 2018/19
4. March 2020	
	Monitoring Officer/Code of Conduct/ Members Complaints Update.
	Officers Gifts and Hospitality -Inspection of Registers for last 6 months of 2019.
	Members Gifts and Hospitality -Inspection of Registers for last 6 months of 2019.
	Work Programme 2020/21