
4 March 2021

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 2021/22

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

This report suggests areas of work for the Ethics Committee for the Municipal Year 2021/22. The Committee is asked to consider the draft work programme and make any suggestions for additional or alternative reports.

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:

Draft 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 2021/22

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.

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
- Annual report to full Council
- CSPL annual report
- Local Ombudsman's annual report

- 2.2 In addition it is suggested that the Ethics Committee factor into the work programme a number of matters where work is being, or about to be, undertaken across the Council, namely:

- Monitoring, and responding to, the Local Government Association's work on civility in public life
- The work of a member/officer group which is developing a local response to the LGA's guidance on intimidation in public life
- Employee values
- Reviewing the operation of the new Code of Conduct for Elected and Co-opted Members
- A review of the guidance to members on declaring interests in the light of the changes to the requirements to register membership of organisations.
- A review of the Complaints Protocol to align with the new Code of Conduct .

Officers will also monitor and report on any legislative changes arising from the CSPL's report and recommendations of January 2019.

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.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

None

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1 Not applicable

5. Comments from Director of Finance and Director of Law and Governance

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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Cllr Walsh	Chair: Ethics Committee		22.02.21	22.02.21

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Appendix 1

Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2021/22

Meeting no. and date	Topics
2021/22	
1. July 2021	
	Monitoring Officer/Code of Conduct/ Members Complaints Update.
	Annual Report of the Committee
	Review of Guidance on Declaration of Interests
	Employee Values
	Review of Complaints Protocol
	Work Programme 2021/22
2. September 2021	
	Monitoring Officer/Code of Conduct/ Members Complaints Update.
	Officers Gifts and Hospitality -Inspection of Registers for first 6 months of 2021.
	Members Gifts and Hospitality -Declarations for first 6 months of 2021.
	Civility in Public Life and Intimidation in Public Life
	Work Programme 2021/22
3. December 2021	
	Monitoring Officer/Code of Conduct/ Members Complaints Update.
	Review of Operation of Code of Conduct for Elected and Co-opted Members
	Local Government Ombudsman Annual Report
	Committee on Standards in Public Life Annual Report
	Update on Employee Values
	Work Programme 2021/22
4. March 2022	
	Monitoring Officer/Code of Conduct/ Members Complaints Update.
	Officers Gifts and Hospitality -Inspection of Registers for last 6 months of 2021.
	Members Gifts and Hospitality -Declarations for last 6 months of 2021.
	Work Programme 2022/23