

## **Agenda Item 8**

**Council – 18 October 2021**

**Recommendation from Ethics  
Committee 29 September, 2021**

**Coventry City Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of Ethics Committee held at 10.00 am on Thursday, 29**  
**September, 2021**

Present:

Members: Councillor S Walsh (Chair)  
Councillor P Hetheron  
Councillor J Mutton  
Councillor D Welsh

Other Members present: Councillor R Brown, Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance  
and Resources (for Minute 4 below)

Employees:- S Bennett, Law and Governance  
C Bradford, Law and Governance  
S Harriott, Law and Governance  
J Newman, Director of Law and Governance and  
Monitoring Officer  
L Sobierski, Human Resources

Independent Persons: A Barton, R Wills and P Wiseman

Apologies: S Atkinson

### **RECOMMENDATION**

#### **Public Business**

#### **5. Annual Report of the Ethics Committee 2020/21**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Law and Governance which set out the work of the Committee over the last municipal year. In particular, the report detailed:-

- Work that the Committee has carried out on developing a new Code of Conduct for Elected and Co-opted Members which was approved by full Council
- A new Travel and Conference Policy produced by the Committee
- Consideration of complaints made under the Code of Conduct

As well as receiving regular reports on ethical standards cases across the country, the Committee has also considered reports on:-

- The result of a rapid non-statutory review into serious governance and risk management issues at Nottingham City Council;
- Steps taken by the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government in the wake of arrests in connection with accusations of bribery and witness intimidation at Liverpool City Council.
- The Committee on Standards in Public Life's short report on its review of progress by local authorities against its 15 Best Practice Recommendations for ethical standards.

The Committee has also maintained a watching brief of work being undertaken by the Local Government Association on Civility in Public Life and also on work being done locally on supporting Members in dealing with challenges associated with public life, particularly in relation to intimidation and abuse.

The report also detailed the Work Programme for 2021/22.

The Ethics Committee approved the Annual Report for 2020/21.

**RESOLVED that the City Council be recommended to:**

- a) Note the Annual Report of the Ethics Committee for 2020/21**
- b) Consider whether there is any work within the Committee's terms of reference that Council would wish the Committee to undertake**