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Ethics Committee

29 September 2022

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

N/A- Ethics Committee

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Director of Law and Governance

**Ward(s) affected:**

**Not applicable**

**Title:**

Work Programme for the Ethics Committee 2022/23

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**Is this a key decision?**

No

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**Executive Summary:**

This report sets out the previously approved work programme for the Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2022/23. The Committee is asked to consider the 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 that the Committee considers appropriate.

**List of Appendices included:**

Appendix 1: 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 the Ethics Committee for 2022/23**

### **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 previously approved 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 work programme takes account of the need to promote standards and addresses this in a number of ways. It 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 was approved by the Committee at its meeting on 5 April 2022 with the inclusion of the following items:
- 1) The Government's response to the recommendations from the Committee on Standards in Public Life regarding ethics in local government.**
  - 2) Members' and Officers' declarations of gifts and hospitality following the City of Culture 2021 Year and the Commonwealth Games 2022.**
- 2.2 The Committee is asked to consider whether there are any other matters that they would want to consider during the year or items that they would want to defer.

### **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 Comments from Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 Officer) 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 the Council Plan ([www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/))?**

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) climate change and the environment**

None

**6.6 Implications for partner organisations?**

None at this stage

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Finance: Graham Clark		Finance	20.09.22	20.09.22
Legal: Julie Newman	City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer	Law and Governance	20.09.22	20.09.22
Councillor S Nazir	Chair: Ethics Committee		20.09.22	20.09.22

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## Appendix 1

### Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2022/23

Meeting no. and date	Topics
<b>2022/3</b>	
<b>1. September 2022</b>	
	Monitoring Officer/Code of Conduct/ Members Complaints Update
	Officers Gifts and Hospitality -Inspection of Registers for first 6 months of 2022 (to include declarations of gifts and hospitality following the City of Culture 2021 Year)
	Members Gifts and Hospitality -Declarations for first 6 months of 2022 (to include declarations of gifts and hospitality following the City of Culture 2021 Year)
	Civility in Public Life and Digital Citizenship Review
	Disqualification of Councillors - Update to Legislation
	Work Programme 2022/23
<b>2. December 2022</b>	
	Monitoring Officer / Code of Conduct / Members Complaints Update
	Local Government Ombudsman Annual Report
	Annual Report on Parish Councils
	Committee on Standards in Public Life Annual Report
	Officer / Member Protocol Review
	Work Programme 2022/23
<b>3. March 2023</b>	
	Monitoring Officer/Code of Conduct/ Members Complaints Update.
	Officers Gifts and Hospitality -Inspection of Registers for last 6 months of 2022 (to include declarations of gifts and hospitality following the Commonwealth Games 2022)
	Members Gifts and Hospitality -Declarations for last 6 months of 2022 (to include declarations of gifts and hospitality following the Commonwealth Games 2022)
	Work Programme 2023/24