
Ethics Committee

9 January 2025

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 2024/25

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

This report proposes areas of work for the Ethics Committee for the Municipal Year 2024/25. The Committee is asked to consider the proposed Work Programme and make any suggestions for additional or alternative reports.

Recommendations:

The Ethics Committee is recommended to review the proposed Work Programme attached as Appendix 1 to the report and make any changes or amendments the Committee considers appropriate.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1 - Proposed 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 2024/25

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 proposed 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
 - Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman's Annual Report
- 2.2 In addition, the Ethics Committee factor into the Work Programme a number of matters where work is being, or about to be, undertaken across the Council. This includes continuing work on Civility in Public Life and the provision of training for Members.
- 2.3 The Committee is asked to consider whether there are any other matters that they would want to consider during the year.

2.4 Recommendation

The Ethics Committee is recommended to review the proposed Work Programme attached as Appendix 1 to the report 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 the Director of Finance and Resources and the 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

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the One Coventry Plan? (<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/strategies-plans-policies/one-coventry-plan>)

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

Report author:

Name and job title:

Suzanne Bennett, Governance Services Co-ordinator

Service area:

Law and Governance

Tel and email contact:

Tel: 024 7697 2299

Email: suzanne.bennett@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Service Area	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Shanita Manhertz	Trainee Solicitor	Law and Governance	05/12/24	05/12/24
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and Members)				
Julie Newman	Director of Law and Governance	-	05/12/24	11/12/24
Richard Shirley	Lead Accountant	Finance and Resources	05/12/24	05/12/24
Councillor S Nazir	Chair of Ethics Committee	-	12/12/24	12/12/24

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

Appendix 1

Proposed Work Programme for the Ethics Committee - Municipal Year 2024/25

Ethics Committee Meeting and date	Topics
2024/5	
1. 27 June, 2024	
	Monitoring Officer/Code of Conduct/ Members Complaints Update
	Annual Report of the Committee
	Work Programme 2024/25
	Local Code of Corporate Governance
2. 26 September 2024	
	Monitoring Officer/Code of Conduct/ Members Complaints Update
	Officers Gifts and Hospitality -Inspection of Registers for first 6 months of 2024
	Members Gifts and Hospitality -Declarations for first 6 months of 2024
	Ending Abuse in Public Life – Council’s Self Assessment and Toolkit
	Work Programme 2024/25
3. 9 January, 2025	
	Ending Abuse in Public Life Council Self-Assessment Toolkit – Outcome of Evidence Gathering Exercise
	Monitoring Officer/Code of Conduct/ Members Complaints Update
	Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Report
	Work Programme 2024/25
4. 20 March 2025	
	Monitoring Officer/Code of Conduct/ Members Complaints Update.
	Update on Members Training
	Members Gifts and Hospitality - Declarations for last 6 months of 2024
	Officers Gifts and Hospitality - Inspection of Registers for last 6 months of 2024
	Work Programme 2025/26