

**Agenda Item 8  
Council – 9 July 2024  
Recommendation from Ethics  
Committee  
27 June 2024**

**Coventry City Council  
Minutes of the Meeting of Ethics Committee held at 11.00 am on Thursday, 27  
June 2024**

Present:

Members: Councillor S Nazir (Chair)

Councillor L Bigham  
Councillor P Hetherton  
Councillor E M Reeves  
Councillor D Welsh

Independent Persons: S Atkinson  
P Wiseman

Employees (by Service Area):

Law and Governance: J Newman (Director of Law and Governance), S Bennett,  
S Manhertz

Apologies: R Wills

**RECOMMENDATION**

**4. Annual Report of Ethics Committee 2023-24**

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:-

- Update on the Online Safety Bill (now enacted Online Safety Act 2023)
- The Committee's review of the Local Code of Corporate Governance
- Civility in Public Life, Intimidation in Public and Digital Citizenship
- Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Report

The report also detailed other regular work of the Committee over the last year including receiving regular reports on ethical standards cases across the country; maintaining a watching brief on work being undertaken by the Committee on Standards in Public Life; and locally on supporting Members in dealing with challenges associated with public service, particularly in relation to intimidation and abuse. The Committee has also received an update on Members training during 2023/24 and supported the continuing delivery of the Members Training and Development Strategy, including actions for 2024/25.

Details of the Work Programme for 2024/25 were also highlighted in the report and included:-

- Consideration of the self-assessment Toolkit to aid Councillors in dealing with abuse, harassment and intimidation as part of the Debate not Hate: Ending Abuse in Public Life Campaign.
- Maintaining a watching brief on any legislative changes arising from the Committee on Standards in Public Life's report and recommendations of January 2019.

The Ethics Committee approved the Annual Report for 2023/24.

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

- 1. Note the Annual Report of the Ethics Committee for 2023/24**
- 2. Consider whether there is any work within the Committee's terms of reference that Council would wish the Committee to undertake**