



## Audit and Standards Committee Report

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**Report of:** David Hollis, General Counsel

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**Date:** 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024

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**Subject:** Audit and Standards Committee Annual Report 2023

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### Summary:

The report highlights the activities of the Committee and provides details of the outcome of the Standards complaints received from January to December 2023.

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### Recommendations:

That the Committee:-

- (a) Comments on the Annual Report; and
- (b) Approves the report for submission to Full Council.

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**Background Papers:** None

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**Category of Report:** OPEN

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## Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

<b>Financial Implications</b>
NO Cleared by:
<b>Legal Implications</b>
NO Cleared by:
<b>Equality of Opportunity Implications</b>
NO Cleared by:
<b>Tackling Health Inequalities Implications</b>
NO
<b>Human rights Implications</b>
NO:
<b>Environmental and Sustainability implications</b>
NO
<b>Economic impact</b>
NO
<b>Community safety implications</b>
NO
<b>Human resources implications</b>
NO
<b>Property implications</b>
NO
<b>Area(s) affected</b>
NONE
<b>Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?</b>
NO
<b>Press release</b>
NO

## **Audit and Standards Annual Report 2023**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This is the seventh Annual Report of the merged Audit and Standards Committee and covers the period from January 2023 – December 2023. The Committee will receive this information on a yearly basis and although named the Audit and Standards Annual Report, the information contained within the reports will be primarily Standards related.

### **2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Changes to the Standards regime were introduced in July 2012 following the Localism Act 2011. Although it was no longer a statutory requirement to have a Standards Committee, Full Council approved the retention of a Committee to deal with complaints and adopted a new Members' Code of Conduct and a Procedure for Dealing with Standards Complaints.

### **3.0 MAIN BODY OF THE REPORT**

Including Legal, Financial and all other relevant implications (if any)

- 3.1 The Standards responsibilities of the merged Audit and Standards Committee include monitoring the Council's complaints process, training, learning and development, and advising the Council on the adoption and revision of relevant policies and corporate issues.
- 3.2 As such, the attached report covers these areas in detail, summarising Standards activities from January 2023 - December 2023.

### **4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 That the Committee comments on the attached report; and approves the report for submission to Full Council.

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