

POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

24 JUNE 2021

ANNUAL STANDARDS REPORT FOR 1 APRIL 2020 – 31 MARCH 2021

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To consider the Annual Standards Report for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

2.0 Background

2.1 At its meeting on 10 March 2016 the Council deleted the Standards Committee from the committee structure with its remit being incorporated in to the Policy & Finance Committee. It was further agreed that the Annual Report relating to standards issues be brought to the Policy & Finance Committee.

3.0 Code of Conduct Complaints

3.1 The Monitoring Officer received fifteen formal complaints within the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. Thirteen complaints resulted in no further action being taken: either because they revealed no breach of the Member Code of Conduct (and therefore didn't merit formal investigation); or were resolved through informal resolution being reached. Decisions as to whether a complaint merits formal investigation are only taken after consultation with the Council's Independent Persons. Two complaints are still being considered and these relate to parish rather than district councillors.

4.0 Formal Investigation and Code of Conduct Hearing

4.1 There were no formal investigations or Code of Conduct Hearings required for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

5.0 Register of Members Interests

5.1 Register of Interests Forms for Newark & Sherwood District Council Members were issued to all Members following the District Council elections held on 2 May 2019. These were required to be completed and returned within 28 days of the election. These have been returned from all Members and are published on the Council's website.

5.2 Town and Parish Councillors are also required to complete a Register of Interest form within 28 days of the election which are also published on the Council's website.

6.0 RECOMMENDATION

That the annual report be noted.

Reason for Recommendation

To provide Members with details of the standards issues in 2020/21.

Background Papers

Nil

For further information please contact Nigel Hill, Business Manager – Elections & Democratic Services on Ext 5243.

Karen White

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