



City of Westminster

Standards Committee

Date:	22 February 2024
Classification:	For General Release
Title:	Introductory Report - Biennial Standards Committee Report (March 2022-March 2024)
Report of:	Executive Director of Democracy, Law and People
Wards Involved:	Not applicable
Financial Summary:	There are no financial implications
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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 It is considered best practice for Council to receive an annual or a biennial report in relation to standards. The provision of such a report highlights the importance the Council places on the profile of ethical standards across the organisation and affords the opportunity to highlight areas of good practice and identify any requirements for improvement.
- 1.2 The Standards Committee Biennial report, which is the substantial report being considered is attached at Appendix 1 to this introductory report. The Biennial report sets out the work undertaken by the Committee and what it has achieved over the last two years.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Standards Committee consider and comment on the draft Biennial report attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.2 That the Standards Committee recommend the Biennial report to full Council for discussion and noting.

3. Background Information

- 3.1 The Standards Committee agreed at a meeting on 11 July 2019 to produce a biennial report to publicise all the work it has undertaken in relation to ethical standards. The committee meets three times per year and therefore a biennial report was considered most appropriate.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The principal statutory provisions relating to standards of conduct for Members are contained in the Localism Act 2011. Section 27(1) of the 2011 Act provides that the Council must promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members and Co-opted Members of the authority.
- 4.2 Sections 27 and 28 of the Localism Act require the Council to adopt a Code of Conduct consistent with the Nolan principles of good governance and to appoint at least one Independent Person whose views must be sought and taken into account before the Council makes any decision about an alleged breach of the Code that has been investigated.

5. Other Implications

- 5.1 None.

**If you have any questions about this report, please contact
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**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1972
BACKGROUND PAPERS – None**

Appendix 1: Biennial Standards Report – March 2022- March 2024