

# NON-EXEMPT

## EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Standards Committee

10 October 2019

Report on the Standards in Public Life  
David Brown, Head of Legal Services

### FOR DECISION

Portfolio: Governance and Legal – Cllr N Drew

Key Decision: No

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### 1.0 Purpose of the paper

- 1.1 This paper is submitted to the Committee to consider the need for a working group to review the '*Local Government Ethical Standards. A Review by the Committee on Standards in Public Life*' This report of 110 pages was published on the 30 January 2019 and contains 26 recommendations many of which are relevant to the functioning of this Council.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/777315/6.4896\\_CO\\_CSPL\\_Command\\_Paper\\_on\\_Local\\_Government\\_Standards\\_v4\\_WEB.PDF](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/777315/6.4896_CO_CSPL_Command_Paper_on_Local_Government_Standards_v4_WEB.PDF)

### 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 To form a working group to review the report and making recommendations to the Standards Committee on what, if any, recommendations should be referred by this committee to full council.

### 3.0 Executive summary

- 3.1 This council has already adopted some of the recommendations. For example: recommendation 25 on training even if not formally adopted by groups has broad political support. However, other recommendations may be worthy of consideration and the revision of the committee's terms of reference and the constitutional review are opportune moments to incorporate any changes.
- 3.2 The length and breath of the report does not lend itself to review in a formal committee structure and it is suggested a working group is established which may read and consider the report at its leisure and then meet and if necessary call upon officer support as required. The recommendations of the working group may then be formally reported back and debated by the

Committee who may chose to make recommendations to full council for immediate changes to the Constitution or to the joint constitutional sub-committee for incorporation into the review.

#### **4.0 Additional budgetary implications**

4.1 None

#### **5.0 Background and corporate strategy and directorate business plan(s)**

5.1 This aligns with the constitutional review.

#### **6.0 Options and reasons for recommending relevant option**

6.1 Option 1: Do Nothing. This option is the simplest and requires no effort and little resource. However, it means the Standards regime will remain static, and may not be able to meet new challenges.

6.2 Option 2: This will provide an opportunity for members to consider and adopt relevant and pertinent recommendations that members feel will benefit the functioning of this Council and residents.

#### **7.0 Resource implications**

7.1 The working group will require Democratic Services and Legal Officer support. To allow for effective planning of resource the working group should be time limited.

#### **8.0 Legal implications**

The will depend on the recommendation made.

#### **9.0 Significant risks**

The do-nothing option risks stagnation, an early review will evidence a commitment to high standards in public life. Ensuring the Council's standards regime is kept up to date also assists in educating members and reducing the reputational risk to the authority.

#### **10.0 Consultation**

Any outcome will require full member engagement to be adopted.

#### **11.0 Communication**

Any recommended changes will be fully published to all members

Agreed and Signed off by:

Monitoring Officer: 02.10.19

S151 Officer: 02.10.19

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