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## **Audit and Standards Committee – 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2020**

### **Report of the Monitoring Officer**

### **Annual Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life 2019/20**

#### **Purpose**

1. To receive the annual report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life.

#### **Recommendation**

2. That the Committee note and comment on the annual report.

#### **Background**

3. The annual report is attached. The remit of the Committee is wide-ranging but broadly it covers standards of conduct of all holders of public office whether elected or appointed.
4. The report refers to the seven principles of public life. The principles include selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. These principles are fully reflected in the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in the Constitution.
5. The report includes an overview of the work undertaken in 2019/20 and ongoing activity. The issues identified in the report are of general interest to the public sector and Members are invited to note the contents of the document.
6. The report refers to the Local Government Association consultation on the Model Member Code of Conduct which commenced in June, 2020. A report on the Model Code was considered by this Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2020. The Monitoring Officer submitted a response to the consultation taking account of the comments made by Members.
7. The Government response is awaited and there have been no changes in primary or secondary legislation at this time. A report will be submitted to this Committee on any future developments. The Committee on Standards in Public Life has indicated that it will undertake a review of the take-up of their previous best



practice recommendations, however, this has been deferred in recognition of the significant pressures on local government at the present time.

### **Finance**

8. There are no direct financial implications for the Council arising from this report.

### **Law**

9. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of its statutory functions.

### **Equality Impact**

10. The Council is committed to equality and diversity and this is reflected in the Councillors and Employees Codes of Conduct.

### **Human Resources/Organisational Development**

11. This report has no direct implications. The Council's standards arrangements are administered by the Monitoring Officer within the resources available to him.

### **Commercial/Procurement**

12. This report has no impact on the Council's ability to trade or on our customer base.

### **Health, Wellbeing and Safety**

13. This report has no direct implications for the Council's commitment to building stronger, safer and more resilient communities in line with the Dudley Vision and protecting our residents' physical, and emotional health for the future.



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**Mohammed Farooq**  
**Monitoring Officer**

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### **List of Background Documents**

Appendix – [Annual Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life 2019/20 Report and Minutes of the Audit and Standards Committee – 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020](#)

