

**Bolsover District Council**

**Standards Committee**

**10th March 2015**

<p><b>Committee on Standards in Public Life Annual Report 2013/14</b></p>
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**Report of the Assistant Director – Governance and Monitoring Officer**

This report is public

**Purpose of the Report**

- To advise members of the content of the annual report from the Committee on Standards in Public Life.

**1 Report Details**

- 1.1 The Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL), sometimes called the Nolan Committee, is an independent body which advises Government on ethical standards. The Committee's role includes examining current concerns about standards of conduct of all holders of public office, including arrangements relating to financial and commercial activities and making recommendations as to any changes in present arrangements which might be required to ensure the highest standards of propriety in public life.
- 1.2 The Committee's latest annual report emphasises the endurance of the seven principles of public life which the Committee's first report introduced, despite the changing democratic landscape with devolution and new models of governance coming to the fore.
- 1.3 At local government level, the Committee has found that the role of the independent person has been well received and the number of vexatious complaints is falling. However, the Committee expresses concerns over the effectiveness of sanctions which currently provides only for censure or removal from a committee. The Committee believes that the absence of appropriate robust sanctions presents a serious risk to public confidence in local government.
- 1.4 A particular aspect of the Committee's work, relating to provision of standards training within induction which was presented to a previous meeting of this Committee, found that 90% of respondents had adequate arrangements in place. The Committee nevertheless intends to monitor induction programmes and the profile of standards in light of ongoing cuts to local authority funding.

## **2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation**

2.1 To advise the Committee of the latest CSPL annual report.

## **3 Consultation and Equality Impact**

3.1 None.

## **4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

4.1 None.

## **5 Implications**

None.

## **6 Recommendations**

6.1 To note the report.

## **7 Decision Information**

<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> (A Key Decision is one which results in income or expenditure to the Council of £50,000 or more or which has a significant impact on two or more District wards)	No
<b>District Wards Affected</b>	
<b>Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework</b>	

## **8 Document Information**

<b>Appendix No</b>	<b>Title</b>
A	CSPL Annual Report
<b>Background Papers</b> (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
N/A	
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