

## **Bolsover District Council**

### **Standards**

**28<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

#### **Review of Website Content for Standards Committee and the Code of Conduct.**

#### **Report of the Joint Head of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer**

This report is public

#### **Purpose of the Report**

- To set out the content of the Council's website in relation to Standards Committee and the Code of Conduct for Members' review.

#### **1 Report Details**

1.1 Customer Service and Transformation Scrutiny Committee conducted a review of the Standards Committee and processes in 2018/19. One of the recommendations from the review was as follows:

*That the website is reviewed to ensure information in relation to the Standards Committee is both more accessible and user-friendly, including:*

- *Publication of the Standards Annual Report as a document in its own right (rather than embedded in Committee papers)*

1.2 Over the last year the Council's new committee management software has been implemented. This has included a feature to publish webpages and documents within the Committees section of the website, so that it links to the Members pages as well.

1.3 Each Committee has a page that provides a brief description of its functions, as well as setting out its membership and links to the agendas and papers for its meetings.

1.4 The Standards Committee page is attached at Appendix 1.

1.5 The current Councillor Code of Conduct section of the website is attached at Appendix 2.

1.6 Various documents are attached to this page which include:

- [Code of Conduct](#)
- [Complaints Form](#)
- [Summary of Complaints Process](#)
- [Detailed Complaints Process](#)
- [Standards Annual Reports](#)

- 1.7 The last of the above list delivers the specific recommendation of the Scrutiny Review on the publication of Standards Annual Reports in their own right.
- 1.8 This page also links to Member's profiles where their Registers of Interests can be found and to Parish/Town Council details where their individual Codes of Conduct can be downloaded and Register of Interests for each Parish/Town Councillor.
- 1.9 Currently the Register of Interests are published as a scanned version of the paper copy completed and signed by Members. It is intended in the second phase of the Modern.Gov project that the registers be digitised – i.e. typed up – so that the information is easier to view online and complies with accessibility requirements.
- 1.10 As part of this process, Members can be given an online form to update their Register of Interests which will directly update their profiles.

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

- 2.1 The new content of the Committees pages following the implementation of Modern.Gov provides a lot more information on the Standards Committee and also links to the Code of Conduct section of the website than previously.
- 2.2. The Standards Committee Annual Reports have also been published as standalone documents, which fulfils the recommendation of the Scrutiny Review.

## **3 Consultation and Equality Impact**

- 3.1 Standards Committee are consulted by way of this report.
- 3.2 An equality impact assessment has not been required for this report, however the website and documentation that is published are under review to ensure compliance with accessibility standards.

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

- 4.1 The Standards Committee may propose changes and other content to the website as appropriate.

## **5 Implications**

### **5.1 Finance and Risk Implications**

- 5.1.1 There are no finance and risk implications arising from this report.

### **5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection**

- 5.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

### **5.3 Human Resources Implications**

- 5.3.1 There are no staffing implications arising from this report.

## 6 Recommendations

- 6.1 That the Committee review the content of the Council's website on the Standards Committee and Code of Conduct information.

## 7 Decision Information

<p><b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b>  A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:  <i>BDC: Revenue - £75,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/>  <i>Capital - £150,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/>  <i>NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/>  <i>Capital - £250,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i></p>	No
<p><b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b>  (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</p>	No
<p><b>Has the relevant Portfolio Holder been informed</b></p>	Yes
<p><b>District Wards Affected</b></p>	None directly
<p><b>Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework</b></p>	

## 8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
1	Committee Details – Standards Committee
2	Code of Conduct Webpage
<p><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)</p>	
None	
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