

## **Report to Standards Committee**

**Subject:** Arrangements following the May 2015 elections

**Date:** 26 February 2015

**Author:** Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

### **1. Purpose of the Report**

To inform Members of the Standards Committee of proposals with regard to arrangements following the May 2015 election and seek comments.

### **2. Background**

#### Induction of new Members

- 2.1 Members will recall that the Localism Act obliges Members and co-opted Members to notify the Council's Monitoring Officer within 28 days of their election of any disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs) which they have at the time when the notification is given. The Council's approved Code of Conduct goes further than this and requires new Members and co-opted Members to register details of all DPIs and non-pecuniary interests they have within 28 days of their election or appointment by providing written notification to the Council's Monitoring Officer.
- 2.2 Immediately following the election to the Borough Council all new Members will be provided with an Induction Pack which includes a Register of Members' Interests form for them to complete and return.
- 2.3 In addition, a copy of the Code of Conduct will be provided to all Members following the election and, as part of the Induction Programme, a training session on the standards regime and Code of Conduct will be delivered in May 2015.

#### Standards Committee work programme

- 2.4 In July 2015 it will be 3 years since the introduction of the new standards regime under the Localism Act 2011, including the approval of the current Code of Conduct, arrangements for dealing with complaints and composition of the Standards Committee. The Committee is therefore asked to consider whether it is an appropriate time to review those arrangements as part of a formal work programme for 2015/16.

**3. Proposal**

It is proposed that the Committee notes the report and provides comments on the proposals for the induction of new members and Standards Committee work programme.

**4. Resource Implications**

None.

**5. Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Committee notes the report and provides comments on the proposals for the induction of new members and Standards Committee work programme.

**6. Appendices**

None.