



Rochford District  
Council

## REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

### 1 STANDARDS COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP

1.1 This item of business was referred by the Standards Committee on 22 August 2023 to Council recommending that Council appoints a Standards Committee Working Group comprising of four cross party Members of the Standards Committee with the named Members detailed below and with the terms of reference set out below. An extract of the key elements of the report to the Standards Committee is attached in Appendix 1.

1.2 At its meeting on 22 August 2023 the Standards Committee was mindful of the fact that the composition of the Standards Committee Working Group and its terms of reference had not been revisited since 12 December 2017. It was therefore deemed appropriate to ask Council to consider a revised membership of the Working Group, together with revised terms of reference.

1.3 It is proposed that Council **RESOLVES**

(1) To appoint a cross party Standards Committee Working Group consisting of Cllrs J L Lawmon, R C D Linden, D W Sharp and one Conservative Group Member.

(2) That the terms of reference for the Working Group be as follows:-

To determine the Member Training Programme for the 2024/2-25 municipal year and circulate a report with the agenda for the Standards Committee to be held by year end.

- Consideration given to Member feedback.
- Determine any special requests from Members and incorporate as appropriate.
- Incorporate a mix of remote and in person sessions as best suited to the subject matter.
- Set appropriate provisional dates so that Member Services can include these in the 2024/2025 timetable with regard to the established procedure of one morning/afternoon session and one evening session wherever possible.

- To take account of the importance of the regulatory committee requirements.
- Using LGA trainers as far as practicable with in house training and other external trainers as needed, taking into account both demands on staff time and budget.
- Arrange for officers to provisionally book external trainers to ensure availability.

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<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>STANDARDS COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>MONITORING OFFICER</b>

**REPORT SUMMARY**

This report is seeking the appointment of the Standards Committee Working Group for the purpose of considering the Member training programme for 2024/25.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee agrees the membership of the Standards Committee Working Group for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION****1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 On 12 December 2017 Council resolved that a Working Group of the Standards Committee be set up for the purpose of agreeing the content of the Member training programme going forwards. The Group should comprise of, as a minimum, the Chairman of the Standards Committee, three other cross-party Members and one of the Independent Persons, in an advisory capacity.

**2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 Standards Committee has previously agreed different compositions for the Working Group, based on Members volunteering to participate. However, the Working Group has always adhered to the principle set out in paragraph 1.1 above, namely that the group should include the Chairman of the Standards Committee, an Independent Person and at least three other cross-party

Members. In recent years the size of the Working Group has varied, depending on the number of Members volunteering to join the group.

- 2.2 Following the Annual Council meeting of 23 May 2023, there has been a significant change in the membership of the Standards Committee. It would be appropriate, therefore, that Working Group membership for the current year be determined by the Committee at this meeting.

- 2.3 Council resolved in December 2017 that the Working Group should ‘agree the content of the Member Training programme for the 2018/19 Municipal Year and future years.’

### **3.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 3.1 No other options have been considered as the recommendation is in line with a decision previously made by Council.

### **4.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 4.1 There are none.

### **5.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 The proposed recommendation does not require consultation with stakeholders.

### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report other than those associated with travelling to any in person meetings.

### **5.0 LEGAL/GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are none as the recommendation is in line with a previous Council decision.

### **6.0 EQUALITY & HEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are none.

### **7.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are none.

### **8.0 ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There are none.

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## APPENDICES

None.

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

**SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

Council Meeting	Date
Standards Committee	June 2021
Council	February 2020