

**REPORT UNDER RULE 2(VI) OF THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES****Report by Councillor McNulty, Chair of the Ethics and Engagement Committee**

The principal role of the Ethics and Engagement Committee remains as follows:

- Promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by elected and co-opted members.
- Assisting Councillors in observing the Members' Code of Conduct.
- Advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct.
- Monitoring the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct.
- Advising, training or arranging to train Councillors on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct.
- Assessing and hearing any cases of an alleged breach of the Members' Code of Conduct.
- Considering matters relating to the governance of the Council and ethical conduct by councillors, and propose relevant guidance if appropriate.
- Monitoring councillor development and offer guidance intended to improve its efficacy, value, or delivery.
- Developing innovative and effective proposals to improve democratic engagement.

I would like to place on record my thanks to all members of the Committee for their valuable contributions. My thanks also go to Roger Vine for the support he provides in his role as the Council's Independent Person.

Since the last report to Council the Committee has considered the following items:

- The Committee on Standards in Public Life;
- Start Time and Duration of Meetings;
- Democratic Engagement;
- Promotion of the role of Members and Committees;
- Member Code of Conduct, including revisions to the City Council's Code and the introduction of the Local Government Association Model Code of Member Conduct;
- National Democracy Week;
- Engagement Events;
- Social Media Policy.

In terms of complaints, since 1 January 2020 I can report that three complaints were received against members, none of which required any further action. Despite these complaints I am sure that Council will agree that councillors appear to be continuing to behave and interact between themselves and the public in a responsible and respectful manner. I think all members would agree that the pragmatic and even-handed approach to responding to complaints by the Monitoring Officer and the Independent Person is to be welcomed. I understand that further training on the Code of Conduct will be provided to all members later this year.

The work of the Committee, particularly that which it undertook on engagement, the social media policy and promotion of the role of members and committees at the beginning of 2020, was impacted as a result of the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. I look forward to the Committee revisiting these important matters in the coming year.

**Councillor Adrianna McNulty**  
**Chair of the Ethics and Engagement Committee**