

Committee(s)	Dated:
Standards Committee	18 May 2018
Subject: Review of the Standards Framework	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information

Summary

This report confirms the outcome of the review of the Standards framework following the Court of Common Council meeting on 8 March 2018.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to receive the report as information.

Main Report

Background

1. On 8 March 2018, the Court of Common Council approved recommendations of the Standards Regime Review Working Party on the Corporation's current Standards Framework, following a review undertaken by Mr Charles Bourne QC. A copy of the report and associated documents have previously been sent to all Members of the Standards Committee and the Independent Persons.
2. The revised Code of Conduct and guidance on it are now in operation, whilst the new complaints procedure will come into effect on a date to be confirmed by the Town Clerk under delegated authority (see paragraph 3 below). These documents are attached as appendices.
3. As Members will now be aware, the review outcome approved the appointment of a Standards Appeal Committee to conduct the appeals process of the complaints procedure, and the membership of that committee and its terms of reference has now been approved by the Court. However, the new committee will not determine any appeals until a date to be fixed by the Town Clerk under delegated authority, to allow for a seamless transition following the training of the Standards Appeal Committee, the amendment of the Standards Committee terms of reference arising from the review outcome, and the coming into force of the new complaints procedure.
3. The Court considered that the 'separation' of the Independent Persons from the Committee should be reinforced with Independent Persons no longer

routinely attending Standards Committee meetings, other than (1) hearings where they have a statutory role and (2) meetings at which their role is under discussion and they may contribute useful information. Independent Persons will continue to receive Standards Committee agendas and minutes and be invited to six-monthly briefing meetings with the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and appropriate officers, to ensure they remain updated on the Committee's discussions and decisions about the Code of Conduct and conduct matters generally.

Conclusion

5. The Committee is asked to note the outcome of the review of the Standards framework.

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