

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

20 September 2019

Local Ethical Framework Developments**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To update Members on the development of the ethical framework under the Localism Act 2011.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members receive a report at each Standards Committee meeting setting out any recent developments in the ethical framework.

3.0 COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE REVIEW – AI AND PUBLIC STANDARDS

- 3.1 The Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) has recently launched a review on artificial intelligence and its impact on standards across the public sector, to examine “whether the existing frameworks and regulations are sufficient to ensure that high standards of conduct are upheld as technologically assisted decision-making is adopted more widely across the public sector”. More information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-and-public-standards-terms-of-reference>

- 3.2 The CSPL intends to publish a report early next year.

4.0 COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

- 4.1 The CSPL has recently published its Annual Report for 2018-19. The Report is published online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/annual-report-2018-19>

and describes the work undertaken by the CSPL in relation to its priority areas during the period July 2018 – June 2019:

- Local government and ethical standards
- AI and public standards
- Intimidation in public life
- MP’s outside interests
- Bullying and harassment in Westminster

- 4.2 The CSPL confirms its vision “to reinforce clear expectations across public life of high standards of conduct”.

5.0 COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE REPORT RE INTIMIDATION IN PUBLIC LIFE

5.1 The Standards Committee has previously been informed about the CSPL's report regarding Intimidation in Public Life, which is published at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/intimidation-in-public-life-a-review-by-the-committee-on-standards-in-public-life>

and which made a number of recommendations to government, social media companies, political parties, the police, broadcast and print media, MPs and Parliamentary candidates.

5.2 The CSPL has recently published correspondence from the Government in relation to the Committee's report:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/intimidation-in-public-life-letter-from-the-minister-for-the-constitution>

which outlines the steps which have been taken in response to the report, including:

- laying a written Ministerial Statement to update Parliament on Government's progress in implementing the CSPL's recommendations since the Government's response was published in May 2018;
- undertaking a public consultation entitled 'Protecting the Debate: Intimidation, Influence and Information', seeking views on, amongst other matters, a proposed new electoral offence of intimidation of candidates and campaigners;
- holding discussions with the social media companies and the Electoral Commission;

5.3 Members will be kept informed of all developments.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 That the Committee notes the contents of this report.

BARRY KHAN

Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) and Monitoring Officer

Background Papers:

None

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NORTHALLERTON

11 September 2019