

Somerset County Council

County Council  
– 22 February 2023

## **Annual Report of the Standards Committee**

Lead Member: Cllr John Bailey - Chair of Committee

Lead Officer: Scott Wooldridge - Monitoring Officer and Strategic Manager -  
Governance & Democratic Services

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### **1. Summary**

- 1.1** The Standards Committee is required by the Constitution to make an annual report to the County Council. This report covers the period between May 2022 and February 2023. The Annual Report is attached as Appendix 1.
- 1.2** The Standards Committee was formed following the May 2022 elections and promotes and maintains high standards of conduct by elected Members and Co-opted Members of Council and Council bodies.

### **2. Recommendations**

**The Council is recommended to receive and note the report on the Committee's work.**

### **3. Background**

- 3.1** At the Council meeting in May 2022 the work of the Constitution and Standards Committee was separated, to form two new committee's, firstly the Standards Committee and also a Constitution and Governance Committee.
- 3.2** Political proportionality was waived in relation to the elected membership of the Committee with one member per political group appointed. Four co-opted members were also appointed to the committee as non-voting members. In line with other committees, the County Council appoints the Chair of the Committee.
- 3.3** The Committee has met four times since May 2022 and in October 2022 held a workshop to identify a work programme for the Committee.

#### **4. Implications**

- 4.1** The Committee has considered any implications as part of their work programme with reports submitted to the committee.
- 4.2** Legal: The Constitution requests that the Standards Committee submit an Annual Report to Council in February each year.
- 4.3** Risk: There are no risks arising from the submission of this report.
- 4.4** Impact Assessment: There are no direct equalities implications arising from the Annual Report. There are also no sustainability or community safety implications.

#### **5. Background papers**

- 5.1** None.