

ACTIVITIES FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR**Report of the City Solicitor****1. Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to seek the Committee's views on the scope of its activities for the forthcoming civic year.

2. Current Position

In addition to discharging its legal responsibilities the Committee has a broader role of promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct of Members of the City Council and Hetton Town Council. Whilst it is difficult to timetable a work plan for the forthcoming year because of uncertainties as to when or whether the Government proposes to amend the current Code of Conduct, the Committee is invited to consider the following activities proposed to be undertaken:-

- To consider and make recommendations to Council on possible changes to the Code of Conduct (following the earlier consultation exercise on which it has commented).
- Training of Members on any changes made to the Code of Conduct.
- Further refresher training for Members on the Code of Conduct.
- Further awareness raising and communication of the importance of the ethical agenda with officers and the public.
- Appropriate attendance at the Standards Board's conference and feedback.
- Continued update of significant issues to Members.
- Occasional meetings of the Chairman with Leaders of the political groups of the Council.
- Continued networking with Chairs of other Standards Committees.
- Submission of an annual report to full Council

3. Recommendation

That the Committee endorses the proposed range of activities and identifies any further matters they wish to see covered.