**Report of Standards Committee**

1. This report summarises the business considered at the meeting of the Standards Committee held on Tuesday 21 January 2020.

**Standards Annual Report**

1. The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented a report which provided an account of standards and related work carried out within the last twelve months.
2. The Committee were advised that in 2017/18 the Standards Committee had undertaken a lot of the policy and guidance work which left the Committee in a strong position. However, the Committee has still met and there has been three Hearing Panels over the course of the year to carry out the initial assessment of complaints received.
3. The Committee advised for the period 1 November 2018 to 31 December 2019, there had been seven formal complaints about members, with six of the complaints being made by members of the public. In five cases a decision to take no action was made and in two cases an apology/explanatory statement was sought and obtained. By way of comparison, for the period 1 November 2017 to 31 October 2018 there had been 23 complaints, with the majority of these being submitted by a fellow members.
4. The Committee was pleased to hear the appointments to the Shared Services Posts for the Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer position had been appointed too. We were advised the Deputy Monitoring Officer will be meeting with Officers from Chorley to discuss how best to align both Council’s Code of Conducts, and it was suggested that a meeting with members of Chorley’s Standards Committee and their Independent Persons would be beneficial when looking to learn from each other’s practices.

**Recommendations**

That Council note the report.

COUNCILLOR CAROL WOOLDRIDGE

CHAIR OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

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