

Somerset West and Taunton Council

Standards Committee – 23 February 2023

Leading in Practice Report: A review by the Committee on Standards in Public Life

This matter is the responsibility of the Leader of the Council, Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts

Report Author: Amy Tregellas, Governance Manager & Monitoring Officer

1 Executive Summary / Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 In January 2023, the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) published their report on Leading in Practice (Appendix A).
- 1.2 Lord Evans, Chair of the CSPL wrote an open letter to Public Sector Leaders asking them to consider how they build ethical values into their ways of working (Appendix B).

2 Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. Notes the Leading in Practice Report: A review by the Committee on Standards in Public Life.
2. Writes to Duncan Sharkey, Somerset County Council (SCC) Chief Executive, Cllr Bill Revans – Leader of SCC and the Chair of the SCC Standards Committee to ask them to consider this report to ensure that ethical values are embedded into the culture and ways of working for Somerset Unitary Council.

3 Risk Assessment

- 3.1 Having a robust Standards regime is a key part of the Council's ethical governance arrangements.

4 Background and Full details of the Report

- 4.1 In January 2023, the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) published their report titled '*Leading in Practice*'.
- 4.2 The report focuses on the Nolan Principles in Public Life and ethical values. The CSPL is asking Public Sector Leaders to embed the principles and ethical behaviours into their organisations and culture.
- 4.3 In his introduction, Lord Evans states '*Senior leaders must ensure that values are understood and embedded into all aspects of how their organisations operate – from the way leader communicate with employees, to the priority given to developing good decision-making, to the approach taken to recruitment and performance management.*

While the tone from the top is critical, leadership matters throughout an organisation. Leaders at all levels have a fundamental role in exemplifying and helping their teams live up to the principles in their day-to-day behaviours’.

- 4.4 It is recommended that the Chair of the Committee writes to Duncan Sharkey, Somerset County Council (SCC) Chief Executive, Cllr Bill Revans – Leader of SCC, and the Chair of the SCC Standards Committee to ask them to consider this report to ensure that ethical values are embedded into the culture and ways of working for Somerset Unitary Council.

5 Links to Corporate Strategy

- 5.1 Having a robust ethical governance framework is a fundamental part of delivering the Council’s Corporate Strategy.

6 Finance / Resource Implications

None arising from this report

7 Unitary Council Financial Implications and S24 Direction Implications

- 7.1 There are no Unitary Council Financial Implications or S24 Direction Implications.

8 Legal Implications

- 8.1 None arising from this report

9 Climate and Sustainability Implications

- 9.1 None arising from this report

10 Safeguarding and/or Community Safety Implications

- 10.1 None arising from this report

11 Equality and Diversity Implications

- 11.1 None arising from this report

12 Social Value Implications

- 12.1 None arising from this report

13 Partnership Implications

- 13.1 None arising from this report

14 Health and Wellbeing Implications

- 14.1 None arising from this report

15 Asset Management Implications

- 15.1 None arising from this report

16 Data Protection Implications

16.1 None arising from this report

17 Consultation Implications

17.1 None arising from this report

Democratic Path:

- **Standards Committee – Yes**
- **Cabinet/Executive – No**
- **Full Council – No**

Reporting Frequency: Ad-hoc

List of Appendices

Appendix A	Leading in Practice: A review by the Committee on Standards in Public Life
Appendix B	Lord Evans open letter to Public Sector Leaders

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