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<b>PART A:</b>	<b>MATTERS DEALT WITH UNDER DELEGATED POWERS</b>
<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ACTING AS CORPORATE GOVERNANCE STANDARDS COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>1 OCTOBER 2020</b>
<b>REPORT OF THE:</b>	<b>HEAD OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND MONITORING OFFICER SIMON COPLEY</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>FILTER ASSESSMENT FOR STANDARDS COMPLAINTS</b>
<b>WARDS AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report seeks the support of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee acting as the Corporate Governance Standards Committee to introduce the use and publication of a filter assessment for standards complaints.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 That the use and publication of the filter assessment for standards complaints, attached as Appendices A and B of the report, be approved.

### **3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 3.1 To implement the following best practice recommendation on ethical standards from the Committee on Standards in Public Life:

*“Councils should publish a clear and straightforward public interest test against which allegations are filtered.”*

### **4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS**

- 4.1 Promoting and maintaining clear and transparent processes for dealing with standards complaints, increases understanding of and confidence in the system and reduces the likelihood of ongoing complaints, with its associated financial, legal and reputational consequences.

### **5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 Article 8 of the Constitution states that the role and functions of the Overview and

Scrutiny Committee acting as the Corporate Governance Standards Committee includes that it will:

*“Take a general overview on all ethical issues and issues of probity.”*

## **REPORT**

### **6.0 REPORT DETAILS**

6.1 In 2019 the Committee on Standards in Public Life published a series of best practice recommendations on ethical standards, which they expect local authorities to implement.

6.2 One of these recommendations is:

*“Councils should publish a clear and straightforward public interest test against which allegations are filtered.”*

6.3 Many councils already have this in place as part of their process for dealing with standards complaints. However at Ryedale a filter assessment needs to be adopted for use when dealing with complaints.

6.4 Assessment criteria are set out in Appendix A of this report and an assessment template in Appendix B. It is proposed the use and publication of these is approved as the filter assessment for allegations, by which the Monitoring Officer decides to refer complaints for investigation or other action, or decides that no action should be taken in respect of the complaint.

### **7.0 IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 The following implications have been identified:

a) Financial

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

b) Legal

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

c) Other (Equalities, Staffing, Planning, Health & Safety, Environmental and Climate Change, Crime & Disorder)

There are no significant other implications arising from this report.

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**Background Papers:**

The Constitution

**Background Papers are available for inspection at:**

