

North East Derbyshire District Council

Standards Committee

18 June 2015

Hansard Society's Audit of Political Engagement
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**Report No ADGMO/8/15-16/SS of the Assistant Director – Governance and
Monitoring Officer**

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

- To consider Hansard's Audit of Political Engagement.

1 Report Details

- 1.1 The Hansard Society has recently published the report of its 12th Audit of Political Engagement. A copy is attached at **Appendix A**. The Audit questioned members of the public on their levels of interest and engagement with politics, their perceptions of their elected officials and their attitudes towards issues ranging from the European Parliament elections to ethical training for MPs in the UK. The Audit also incorporated questions relating specifically to ethical conduct, prepared by the Committee with the assistance of its Research Advisory Board.
- 1.2 These questions followed on from the independent biennial surveys of public attitudes that Committee on Standards in Public Life conducted until 2013. The research shows that the downward trajectory of public perceptions of ethical standards continues. The survey suggests that the public continue to have a very poor view of the current standards in public life. In particular:
 - More respondents thought overall standards of conduct were low than thought they were high.
 - More respondents said that standards had got worse compared to a few years ago than thought they had improved.
 - The majority of respondents were not confident that the authorities are committed to upholding standards in public life, that the authorities will generally uncover wrongdoing by people in public office, or that the authorities would punish those caught doing wrong.
 - A majority did think the media would generally uncover wrongdoing.
- 1.3 More worryingly, opinion about standards of public life is more negative than any of the previous surveys of public attitudes towards conduct in public life.

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

- 2.1 To advise the Committee of the findings of the Hansard Society's Audit of Political Engagement.

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

- 3.1 None.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 None.

5 Implications

- 5.1 None.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 To note the report.

7 Decision Information

Is the decision a Key Decision? (A Key Decision is one which results in income or expenditure to the Council of £50,000 or more or which has a significant impact on two or more District wards)	No
District Wards Affected	
Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework	

8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
A	Copy of Audit Report
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
N/A	
Report Author	Contact Number
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