



Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance)

Council

Date: 2nd July 2008

Subject: Standards Committee Annual Report 2007/08

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Executive Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to make the Council aware of the Standards Committee Annual Report 2007/08. The appearance of this report reflects the Standards Committee's concern to enhance awareness of its role and activities. This report provides an outline of the content of the report, which is attached at Appendix 1.
2. Members of the Council are asked to note the Standards Committee Annual Report 2007/08 at Appendix 1.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

- 1.1 To make the Council aware of the Standards Committee Annual Report 2007/08. The report is attached at Appendix 1.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 It has been proposed that an annual report be submitted to the Council to outline the achievements of the previous year and plans for the year 2008/09. The appearance of this report reflects the Standards Committee's concern to enhance awareness of its role and activities. The final draft of the report was approved by the Standards Committee at its meeting on 14th April 2008.
- 2.2 At this meeting, it was also agreed that the annual report would be presented to the Council at the earliest opportunity.

3.0 Main Issues

- 3.1 The following section of the report summarises the content of the Standards Committee annual report.

3.2 The Work of the Committee 2007-2008

The section about the work of the Committee in this municipal year is split up into five issue areas which reflect the Committee's terms of reference. The content of these sections is summarised below.

3.3 Promoting, monitoring and reviewing the codes of conduct

- Members Code of Conduct 2007
- Reviewing the Codes and Protocols
- Ethical Audit 2006
- Ethical Audit 2007
- Monitoring compliance with the Code of Conduct
- Register of Interests and Gifts and Hospitality
- Officer Code of Conduct
- Raising the profile of the Committee

3.4 Providing guidance and training

- Induction for City Councillors
- Training on the Members' Code of Conduct 2007
- E-learning Modules
- Parish Council Training
- Governance Matters

3.5 Relationship with Parish and Town Councils

- Annual Audit
- Training on the new Code of Conduct
- Parish and Town Council Induction Pack

- 3.6 Corporate Governance issues
- Comprehensive Performance Assessment
 - Corporate Governance Statement
 - Corporate Governance and Audit Committee
- 3.7 Working with other agencies
- Consultation and Research
 - Standards Board for England
 - Adjudication Panel for England
 - Association of Independent Members of Standards Committees in England (AIMSce)

3.8 Issues for 2008-2009

The potential work of the Committee for the next municipal year is summarised at the end of the report. These issues are outlined below:

- Changes in the role of the Standards Board
- Implementation of the Ethical Audit Action Plan
- Raising the profile of the Standards Committee
- Learning and Development Programme for officers

4.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance

- 4.1 There are no implications for Council policy.
- 4.2 By producing a report which details its work throughout the year, and the principal decisions it has taken, the Standards Committee is promoting transparency in its actions.
- 4.3 The annual report is also a method by which Members and officers can be informed of the Standards Committee's role and its inputs and outputs. This is an objective of the corporate governance communication plan which seeks to cascade regular information to Members and officers. The annual report will therefore have a fundamental contribution to the corporate governance arrangements of the Council.

5.0 Legal And Resource Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal or resource implications.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 The publication of this annual report will support the Council's governance arrangements by promoting transparency in the Standards Committee's actions and help fulfill the corporate governance communication plan.

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 Members of the Council are asked to note the Standards Committee Annual Report 2007/08 as set out in Appendix 1.

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1.1

2.0 Background Information

2.1

3.0 Main Issues

3.1

4.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance

4.1

5.0 Legal And Resource Implications

5.1

6.0 Conclusions

6.1

7.0 Recommendations

7.1