



Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance)

Council

Date: 14th July 2010

Subject: Standards Committee Annual Report 2009/10

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to make the Council aware of the Standards Committee Annual Report 2009/10, which is attached at Appendix 1. This report provides an outline of the content of the annual report.

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 upcoming year. The appearance of this report reflects the Standards Committee's concern to enhance awareness of its role and activities. The annual report was approved by the Standards Committee at its meeting on 22nd April 2010, subject to any suggested amendments. At that meeting, it was also agreed that the annual report would be presented to full Council at the earliest opportunity.

3.0 Main Issues

Standards Committee Annual Report 2009/10

3.1 This section of the report summarises the contents of the Standards Committee Annual Report.

The Work of the Committee 2009 - 2010

- 3.2 The section regarding the work of the Committee is categorised in the same way as last year's annual report, into issue areas which reflect the Committee's terms of reference. However a section on politically restricted posts has been added to incorporate this additional area of responsibility for the Standards Committee.
- 3.3 Promoting, monitoring and reviewing the codes of conduct:
- Reviewing the Codes and Protocols
 - Ethical Audit
 - Register of Interests and Gifts and Hospitality
 - Officer Code of Conduct
- 3.4 Local assessment of complaints:
- Assessment and Review Sub-Committees
 - Consideration and Hearings Sub-Committees
 - Review of local assessment arrangements
 - Training and guidance for members of the sub-committees
- 3.5 Providing guidance and training:
- Governance Matters
 - First-Tier Tribunal (Local Government Standards in England): Decisions of Case Tribunals
- 3.6 Relationship with Parish and Town Councils:
- Addressing the results of the Annual Audit
 - Parish and Town Council Liaison Forum
- 3.7 Politically Restricted Posts:
- Procedure for Politically Restricted Posts
 - Applications for exemption from political restriction
- 3.8 Working with other agencies
- Local Government Chronicle Awards 2010
 - The Centre for Local & Regional Government Research
 - Standards for England
 - Association of Independent Members of Standards Committees in England (AIMSce)

Issues for 2010 - 11

- 3.9 The potential work of the Committee for the next municipal year is summarised at the end of the report.

These issues are outlined below:

- Member and Officer Codes of Conduct
- Induction of the new Chair
- Recruitment Process
- Increasing understanding of local assessment

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. 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 Committee's communication plan which seeks to cascade regular information to Members and officers.

5.0 Legal And Resource Implications

5.1 There are no legal or resource implications.

6.0 Conclusions

6.1 The Standards Committee Annual Report 2009/10 is attached at Appendix 1 for Members' information. The report summarises the achievements of the Committee during the previous year, and its plans for the coming year.

7.0 Recommendations

7.1 Members of the Council are asked to note the Standards Committee Annual Report 2009/10 as attached at Appendix 1.

Background Documents

Report to Standards Committee, 'Standards Committee Annual Report 2009/10', 22nd April 2010