



Report of the City Solicitor

Council

Date: 13th July 2010

Subject: Standards Committee Annual Report 2010/11

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 2010/11, which is attached at Appendix 1. This report provides an outline of the content of the annual report.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 As in previously years, it has been agreed that an annual report be submitted to the Council to outline the work carried out by the Standards Committee during 2010/11. The annual report was approved by the Standards Committee at its meeting on 16th February 2011, subject to any necessary amendments.

3.0 Main Issues

3.1 The Standards Committee Annual Report for 2010/11 covers the following subject areas:

Complaints received during 2010/11

3.1.1 This section of the report gives a summary of the number of complaints received during the last municipal year and what action has been taken in relation to each complaint.

Other performance information

- 3.1.2 The annual report goes on to provide other performance information in relation to questions taken from the Annual Return 2009/10, which the Council was required to complete by Standards for England. Standards for England no longer monitors the performance of Councils in relation to standards issues, but this information will provide assurance to the Council that the Standards Committee is meeting its current statutory obligations, which it must continue to do until the provisions in the Localism Bill come into force in early 2012.
- 3.1.3 These questions cover the following topics:
- The complaints process;
 - Promoting standards of conduct and ethical values; and
 - Training on standards issues.

Issues for 2011-12

- 3.2 Unlike previous years the annual report does not contain a list of forthcoming agenda items due to the Government's planned abolition of the current standards regime, which is due to take place in early 2012.

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 and performance throughout the year, the Standards Committee is promoting transparency in its actions.

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 2010/11 is attached at Appendix 1 for Members' information. The report summarises the work of the Committee during the previous year in relation to complaints, and also provides other performance information in relation to standards of conduct.

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.

8.0 Background Documents

- 8.1 Report to Standards Committee, 'Standards Committee – Interim Annual Report', 16th February 2011
- 8.2 Minute 30 of the Standards Committee meeting, 16th February 2011