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## Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance)

### Standards Committee

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> April 2009

Subject: Standards Committee Annual Report 2008/09

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#### Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

#### Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

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### Executive Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the approval of Members of the Committee for the second draft of their Annual Report for 2008/09.
2. The first draft of the Annual Report was presented to the Standards Committee at the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2009. At that meeting some Members of the Committee made suggestions for amendment to their biographies and were asked to forward any suggestions for additional content to the report author. The amended Annual Report is attached as Appendix 1.
3. Members of the Committee are asked to:
  - Approve the second draft of the Standards Committee Annual Report 2008/09 attached at Appendix 1;
  - Give authority to the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance), in consultation with the Chair, to approve the final report with an updated number of complaints (to include those received up to May 2009);
  - Agree to forward the final report to the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee to constitute the second of their six monthly update reports; and
  - Agree to forward the final report to the first meeting of Council for their consideration.

## **1.0 Purpose Of This Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the approval of Members of the Committee for the second draft of their Annual Report for 2008/09.

## **2.0 Background Information**

- 2.1 This is the fourth Standards Committee Annual Report, and as before it is proposed that the Annual Report be submitted to the Council to outline the achievements of the previous year and plans for the year 2009/10.
- 2.2 Last year's Annual Report was well received by the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee and full Council, was published on the Council's website and was advertised with a Council press release.
- 2.3 The Annual Report also forms part of the reporting arrangements with the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee and will be submitted to them at their first meeting of the 2009/10 municipal year as the second of the six monthly updates.

## **3.0 Main Issues**

### Amendments to the draft report

- 3.1 Following the presentation of the draft report to the Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2009, a few minor amendments have been made to the report including some small amendments to the membership biographies of the Committee.
- 3.2 The number of complaints received by the Standards Committee regarding Leeds City Council and Parish Council Members in Leeds, will need to be updated to show those complaints received up to May 2009. As these details are not yet available, the final version of the report cannot be approved at this meeting.

### The Work of the Committee 2008 - 2009

- 3.3 The section regarding the work of the Committee in the previous year has remained broadly the same since the first draft of the annual report was presented to the Committee. However, additions have been made to bring the report up to date with the work completed since February 2009.

## **4.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance**

- 4.1 There are no implications for Council policy.
- 4.2 Producing a report which details the Committee's work throughout the year and the key decisions it has taken promotes transparency in the Committee's actions.
- 4.3 The annual report is also a method by which Members and officers can be informed of the 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. 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 This report summarises the contents of the final draft of the annual report for the year 2008-2009.

6.2 The publication of this Annual Report will support the Council's governance arrangements by promoting transparency in the Committee's actions and help fulfill the Standards Committee's Communication Plan.

## **7.0 Recommendations**

7.1 Members of the Committee are asked to:

- Approve the second draft of the Standards Committee Annual Report 2008/09 attached at Appendix 1;
- Give authority to the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance), in consultation with the Chair, to approve the final report with the inclusion of new membership details and an updated number of complaints (to include those received up to May 2009);
- Agree to forward the final report to the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee to constitute the second of their six monthly update reports; and
- Agree to forward the final report to the first meeting of Council for their consideration.

## **Background Documents**

- Previous Standards Committee agendas between 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008 and 21<sup>st</sup> April 2009
- Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance) to Corporate Governance & Audit Committee, "Standards Committee half year progress report", 11<sup>th</sup> February 2009