



Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance)

Standards Committee

Date: 22nd April 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

Executive Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Committee's comments on the draft Standards Committee Annual report 2009/10.
2. Members of the Standards Committee are asked to:
 - Review the contents of the report and make any suggestions for amendment;
 - Give authority to the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance), in consultation with the Chair, to approve the final report subject to any suggested amendments;
 - Agree to forward the final report to the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee to constitute the second of its six monthly update reports; and
 - Agree to forward the final report to full Council for consideration.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek comments on the draft Standards Committee Annual Report 2009/10.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 This is the Committee's fifth annual report, and as before it is proposed that it is submitted to full Council to outline the achievements of the previous year and plans for the year 2010/11. A press release will also be produced to publicise the annual report to members of the public, and it will be sent directly to all senior officers within the Council.
- 2.2 The annual report also forms part of the reporting arrangements to the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee and will be submitted at its first meeting of the 2010/11 municipal year as the second of the six monthly updates.

3.0 Main Issues

- 3.1 The annual report takes the same format as in previous years, however members of the Committee will note that this year, the impact of the Committee has been highlighted at the end of each section. The Committee's Annual Return for 2010 has also been included as an Appendix, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 8th July 2009.
- 3.2 As before, members of the Committee are asked to check their biographies and contact the report author if they wish to make any amendments.
- 3.3 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 also been included this year to incorporate this additional area of responsibility for the Committee.

4.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance

- 4.1 Producing a report which details the Committee's work throughout the year and the decisions it has taken promotes transparency of the Committee's actions.
- 4.2 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 Standards Committee Communications 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 to this report.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 This report presents the draft Standards Committee Annual Report 2009/10 for the Committee's comments and suggestions for amendment.

6.2 The publication of the annual report will support the Council's governance arrangements by promoting transparency in the Committee's actions and helping to fulfil the Standards Committee Communications Plan.

7.0 Recommendations

7.1 Members of the Standards Committee are asked to:

- Review the contents of the report and make any suggestions for amendment;
- Give authority to the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance), in consultation with the Chair, to approve the final report subject to any suggested amendments;
- Agree to forward the final report to the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee to constitute the second of its six monthly update reports; and
- Agree to forward the final report to full Council for consideration.

Background documents

Report to Standards Committee: 'Standards for England Annual Return 2009', 8th July 2009