



Report of the Director of Resources

Corporate Governance and Audit Committee

Date: 15th June 2011

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

Executive Summary

1. This report introduces the Standards Committee Annual Report 2010/11, which is attached at Appendix 1.
2. Due to the proposals contained in the Localism Bill, the Standards Committee has agreed that it would not be proportionate to produce an Annual Report in the same format as it has done in previous years. Therefore, this year's report simply includes the performance information which was previously requested by Standards for England as part of the Annual Return.
3. This report provides assurance that the Standards Committee has continued to meet its statutory obligations during the 2010/11 municipal year.
4. Members are asked to note the Standards Committee Annual Report 2010/11 as set out in Appendix 1.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

- 1.1 To inform Members of the Standards Committee Annual Report 2010/11. The report is attached at Appendix 1.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 The terms of reference of the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee include the function to “review the adequacy of the Council’s Corporate Governance arrangements”, which includes the arrangements to ensure the appropriate conduct of Members and officers.
- 2.2 In order to support this function, Corporate Governance and Audit Committee, at its meeting on the 19th April 2006¹, requested that the Standards Committee produce a report on their work to be presented to this committee every 6 months.
- 2.3 At the Standards Committee meeting of the 25th April 2006² that committee agreed that the annual report would be presented to Corporate Governance and Audit Committee, to constitute one of these 6 monthly updates.
- 2.4 The sixth annual report was approved by the Standards Committee at its meeting on 16th February 2011, and is due to be considered by full Council on 13th July 2011.

3.0 Main Issues

- 3.1 Due to the proposals contained in the Localism Bill regarding the Standards regime, the Standards Committee has only met twice during the current municipal year. The Corporate Governance and Audit Committee discussed these proposals at its meeting held on 14th February 2011.
- 3.2 The Standards Committee therefore agreed that it would not be proportionate to produce an Annual Report in the same format as it has done in previous years. It was agreed that the Annual Report should simply include the performance information which was previously required by Standards for England as part of the Annual Return, in order to provide assurance that the Standards Committee is still meeting its statutory obligations.

4.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance

- 4.1 The terms of reference of the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee include the function to “review the adequacy of the Council’s Corporate Governance arrangements”, which includes the arrangements to ensure the appropriate conduct of Members and officers. The Annual Report provides assurance to the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee that the Standards Committee is meeting its statutory obligations.

5.0 Legal And Resource Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal or resource implications.

¹ See Minute 60 of the meeting of the 19th April 2006.

² See Minute 91 of the meeting of the 25th April 2006.

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.
- 6.2 By receiving and noting this report the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee will be undertaking its function to review of the adequacy of the Council's Corporate Governance arrangements.

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 Members are asked to note the Standards Committee Annual Report 2010/11 as set out in Appendix 1.

Background Documents

- Report to Corporate Governance and Audit Committee 'Implications of the Localism Bill for the ethical framework in Leeds', 14th February 2011
- Report to Standards Committee 'Standards Committee – Interim Annual Report', 16th February 2011.