

**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE      23rd March 2011**

**REVIEW OF OPERATION OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE AND ITS  
SUB-COMMITTEES**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Geoff Denaro
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton, Monitoring Officer

**1.    SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

This report seeks Members' views on the general operation of the Standards Committee and its Standards Sub-Committees over the last twelve months.

**2.    RECOMMENDATIONS**

**It is recommended that, subject to any specific issues highlighted by the Committee which might require specific follow-up action, the report be noted.**

**3.    BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Members were first asked to review the general operation of the Standards Committee, for the preceding twelve months, at the meeting of the Committee on 20th May 2009.
- 3.2 It was agreed at that time that the report should feature annually in the Committee's Work Programme and that this would normally be considered by the Committee as its final meeting of the municipal year; prior to any change in membership of the district councillors on the Committee which might take place at the Annual Meeting of the Council in May.
- 3.3 At its meeting on 23rd September 2009 the Committee revised the constitution of its sub-committees in the light of its previous request to the Monitoring Officer to develop a scheme for determining how substitutes should be selected. The Assessment and Review Sub-Committees were therefore restructured and fixed memberships introduced for these. It was agreed that the position should be reviewed once the new sub-committees had been in operation for six months.
- 3.4 At its meeting on 24th March 2010 the Committee considered the operation of the fixed memberships of the Assessment and Review Sub-Committees which had been introduced in September 2009. In

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view of the large number of complaints which had been received during the previous year and the difficulties which officers had from time to time faced in coordinating the assessment of complaints, the Committee resolved that the Monitoring Officer be tasked with preparing a report for consideration by full Council on increasing the membership of the Standards to include a fourth elected Member. The issue of appointing a third full Parish Representative to the Committee was also raised, which it was agreed would be looked at separately, as appropriate. On 24th March 2010 full Council resolved to increase the membership of the Standards Committee from 8 to 9, with the additional member being an elected Member. The additional elected Member vacancy on the Committee currently remains vacant.

- 3.5 At its meeting on 19th May 2010 the Committee further considered the process for selecting substitutes to its sub-committees and the appointment of its members to the sub-committees and agreed further policy in this regard. The Committee also reviewed its policy on which documentation should accompany reports to the sub-committees, which it was agreed should be reviewed further in 12 months' time and which therefore appears on the Committee's Work Programme for the June 2011 meeting.

**4.    KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 Reviewing the general operation of the Standards Committee and its sub-committees is beneficial as it provides Members and officers with an opportunity to reflect on the work carried out over the last twelve months and to consider whether any changes are required to the practices or procedures currently in place to facilitate that work.
- 4.2 The information detailed at paragraphs 3.4 and 3.5 above reflects the Committee's continual review and development of its policies and procedures.
- 4.3 Members are asked to consider the operation of the Standards Committee and its sub-committees over the last 12 months and to comment on any aspects of these accordingly.

**5.    FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

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**6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

**7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

As detailed in report.

**8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES**

8.1 This report is linked to the Council's Improvement Objective.

8.2 Reviewing the general operation of the Standards Committee and its sub-committees will assist Members and officers in identifying any areas which show good practice and/or which may require change. This shows that the Committee is conscious of the need to continually review, develop and, where appropriate, refine any systems which are not meeting the needs of Members, the Council and the public in relation to ethical governance under the local standards framework.

**9. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS**

None

**10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS**

None

**11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

None

**12. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT**

None

**13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY**

None

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**14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

None

**15. GOVERNANCE/PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

15.1 The Standards Committee is responsible for promoting and maintaining high standards of behaviour among Members and its work is therefore key to the ethical governance arrangements in place within the Council.

15.2 Reviewing the general operation of the Standards Committee and its sub-committees on an annual basis will assist the Committee in being proactive in fulfilling its role in ethical governance under the local standards framework.

**16. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING SECTION 17 OF CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998**

None

**17. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

None

**18. LESSONS LEARNT**

None

**19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

None

**20. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT**

Portfolio Holder	No
Chief Executive	No
Executive Director (S151 Officer)	No

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Executive Director – Leisure, Cultural, Environmental and Community Services	No
Executive Director – Planning & Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services	No
Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships	No
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Resources	No
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes
Corporate Procurement Team	No

**21. WARDS AFFECTED**

All wards

**22. APPENDICES**

None

**23. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Relevant reports to and minutes of previous Standards Committee meetings.

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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