

**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**8th June 2012**

**WORK PROGRAMME**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Mark Bullivant
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton, Monitoring Officer and Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

Members are requested to consider the future Work Programme of the Standards Committee.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That, subject to any amendments made to it by the Committee, the Work Programme be approved.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 The Standards Committee established a Work Programme at its meeting on 7th February 2008.

3.2 A Work Programme is beneficial to the Committee for the following reasons:

- (a) to ensure the Committee is fulfilling its roles and functions in accordance with the Council's Constitution;
- (b) to enable officers to be proactive in supporting the Committee and for the Committee to be equally proactive in introducing change to ensure the Council is an ethical organisation, which promotes and maintains high standards of conduct of elected Members, and is an organisation which relates to the community and improves the service it provides; and
- (c) the rising profile of standards committees and, in particular, the changes brought about by the introduction of the local assessment of complaints of alleged breaches by district and parish councillors of the Members' Code of Conduct, under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

3.3 The Work Programme will appear as a regular item on Standards Committee agendas.

3.4 Officers will update the Work Programme, as appropriate, in between meetings and any amendments to this will be referred to the next meeting of

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the Committee for approval. Members of the Committee are welcome to contact officers, at any time, with suggested changes to the Work Programme.

**4. KEY ISSUES**

The Committee is asked to consider the Work Programme and to comment on this accordingly.

**5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

**6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

**7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

None

**8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES**

The Work Programme is linked to the Council's Improvement Objective.

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

None

**10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS**

A Work Programme will assist in informing Members, officers and the public of the work being undertaken by the Committee in ensuring that the Council is an ethical organisation, which is proactively working towards improvement.

**11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

None

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

None

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

None

**14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

None

**15. GOVERNANCE/PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

None

**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
Executive Director – Leisure, Cultural, Environmental and Community Services	No
Executive Director – Planning & Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services	No

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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**

Appendix 1 Work Programme

**23. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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**APPENDIX 1**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

[Note: Any items that it is proposed should be removed from the Work Programme are denoted by a strikethrough, with any new additions and/or rescheduled items appearing in bold italics.]

<b>Meeting date</b>	<b>Item(s) for consideration</b>
27th July 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Standards Committee Annual Report <i>(Joint report for 2009/10 and 2010/11 Municipal Years. Min. 43/10 (iii) of the 23rd March 2011 Standards Committee meeting refers.)</i></li></ul>
21st September 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Annual Ombudsman Complaint Statistics <i>(Final report for period ending 31st March 2011 and to include comparison with neighbouring authorities.)</i></li></ul>
23rd November 2011	
25th January 2012	
21st March 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ombudsman Complaint Statistics <i>(Interim update for period ending 31st September 2011)</i></li><li>• Annual Review of the Operation of the Standards Committee and its Sub-Committees</li><li>• Calendar of meetings 2012/13 <i>(Subject to the outcome of the proposals contained in the Localism Bill for the abolition of mandatory standards committees)</i></li></ul>
May/June 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Meeting subject to the outcome of the proposals contained in the Localism Bill for the abolition of mandatory standards committees and any decision made by the Council in relation to successor arrangements.</i></li></ul>

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Date to be confirmed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><i>Future of the Standards Regime</i></b> <b><i>(Report to Committee once more known on the proposed changes to the standards framework under the Localism Bill and the ongoing obligations for local authorities.)</i></b></li><li>• Monitoring the Operation of the Members' Code of Conduct <i>(Report to go to Committee following the conclusion of the complaints arising from the 29th July 2009 and 20th January 2010 meetings of full Council. Min. 11/10 of the 19th May 2010 Standards Committee meeting refers.)</i></li><li>• Review of Planning Services Code of Practice/ Planning Committee Procedure Rules/Public Speaking at Planning Committee Meetings guidance <i>(Min. 125/08 (ii) of 29th April 2009 Council meeting refers. Date for Annual Review to be added to Work Programme on completion of Review. To be referred to Committee as soon as practicable - Mins. 50/09 (iv) and 57/09 of 24th March 2010 and Min. 33/10 of 26th January 2011 Standards Committee meetings refer.)</i></li><li>• 'Planning Ahead' training session <i>(For members of the Standards Committee - as developed by Standards for England in partnership with the Planning Advisory Service. To take place once any issues arising as a result of the Review of Planning Services Code of Practice above identified. Min. 50/09 (iv) of 24th March 2010 Standards Committee meeting refers.)</i></li><li>• Draft Procedure for Processing Applications for Dispensations <i>(Min. 21/09 (c) of 22nd July 2009 Standards Committee meeting refers.)</i></li><li>• Annual Review of Council Protocols on Member-Officer and Member-Member Relations</li><li>• Establishment of Parish Councils' Ethical Governance Training Programme <i>(To be revisited once more known about the future of the standards regime under the Localism Bill - Monitoring Officer's Report to 22nd September 2010 Standards Committee meeting refers.)</i></li></ul>
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Note: All meetings of the Committee will include regular items such as:

- Minutes of previous meeting;
- Monitoring Officer's Report;
- Parish Councils' Representatives' Report;
- Complaint / investigation updates; and
- Work Programme.